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Of the Church · By the Church · For the Church

Luther League Review

The Official Organ of the Luther League of America

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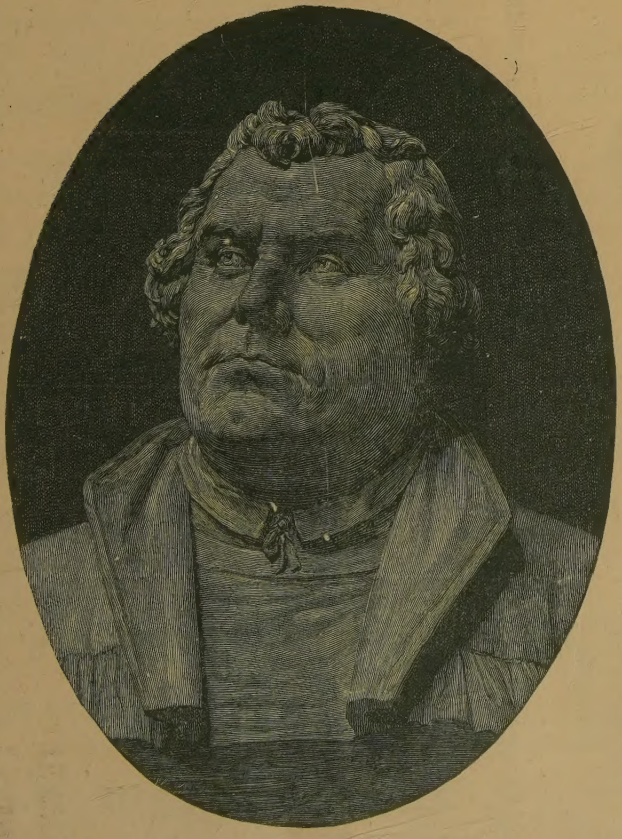

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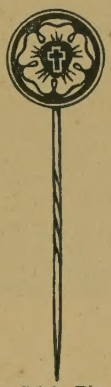

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TURN TO PAGE 4

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FOR THE
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THIS course of reading for the Quadri-Centennial of the Reformation was authorized by the Luther League of America, at the Toledo Convention. The books have been selected with great care to help the Luther Leaguer know his Church better, and enable him to inform other people what the Reformation was and what benefit it has brought to the world. The course consists of the first five books listed below, with your choice of one of the four books that follow in the list.

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Of the Church - By the Church - For the Church

Luther League Review

Luther League of Pennsylvania

Twenty-fourth Annual Convention at Reading, Pa., September 4-6, 1917

BY MISS JANE M. TRUXAL.

THE twenty-fourth Annual Convention of the Luther League of Pennsylvania was held in Trinity Church, Reading, Pa., beginning September 4, 1917.

The first session was a general conference, held Tuesday afternoon, in the chapel of Trinity Church. The meeting was called to order by the Vice-President, in the absence of the President, C. W. Fuhr.

Devotional services were conducted by Rev. L. C. Manges, D. D., of Harrisburg, Pa., Convention Chaplain.

Remarks were then made by Mr. William H. Menges, Vice-President, explaining the meaning of the conference to be held for District and Local Officers, and introducing to the Convention Mr. Harry Hodges, who was asked to conduct the conference.

In his remarks Mr. Hodges stated that the district organization is the clearing house for local officers; that district committees should be selected with care; that the executive committee should be competent; that the extension committee should have knowledge of Luther League work, and should visit locals; that the district is a medium of communication; a medium of co-operation; a medium of distribution of literature to Locals.

Mr. J. M. Deck, President of the Philadelphia District, was asked to tell the Convention of the methods used by his District. He showed how his District is divided into sections, thus developing more workers.

Mr. Elmer E. Becker, of Bucks, Montgomery, and Chester District, then told of the rallies held in his District, which have proven so successful.

Mrs. F. Y. Yokum spoke of the benefits from rallies held in the Berks District.

In the discussion concerning the number of conventions which should be held in the year, it was developed that conditions prevailing in different localities control, in some places one convention being sufficient, with sectional or branch rallies; in other places two or more being necessary.

The Treasurer of the Luther League of Pennsylvania, Mr. M. Haller Frey, then told how Locals and Districts can help the State League, co-operating in the payment of dues.

Mr. Francis C. Leupold, Statistician, said, "Locals and Districts could help by co-operating in furnishing of statistics."

Mr. William M. Mearig, Chairman of the Extension Committee, declared that "although things have moved slowly, the League will soon go by leaps and bounds."

A suggestion was made that the State Extension Committee prepare programs for the work of the District Extension Committee.

Mr. Menges spoke of the Jubilee Offering pledged at the Convention of the Luther League of America, held at Toledo, Ohio, in 1916, urging its need and importance.

Mr. M. Haller Frey, State Treasurer, reported that, so far, only 3 cents per member had been contributed out of the 25 cents per member pledge.

Mr. Harry Hodges, General Secretary of the Luther League of America, made an earnest plea for the Jubilee Offering, showing the great need of the fund to wipe out the indebtedness of the Luther League of America.

Second Session

The Second Session of the Convention opened Tuesday evening. After the Vesper Services, Dr. Nathan R. Melhorn, Pastor

of Trinity Church, extended a very warm and cordial welcome to the Convention.

A very pleasing address of welcome was delivered by Mr. S. Harvey Neatock, President Berks County District, in which he mentioned points of interest in Berks County.

Mr. W. H. Menges responded in well chosen words on behalf of the State League to these addresses.

The report of the President, Charles W. Fuhr, of Pittsburgh, Pa., was presented by Mr. K. J. F. Wilharm, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Luther League of Pennsylvania, who also read a greeting from Mr. Fuhr, to the convention.

The President's report is as follows:

A year has now passed since our State League met at Greenville, when the kind invitation of the Berk's County District Luther League was extended for this convention. At that time the eyes of the whole Church were looking forward to the celebration of the great Quadri-Centennial of the Reformation, to the possibilities it might bring for the upbuilding of our beloved Church, and to the special efforts which were planned to deepen the inner life of her people and the extension of her work. But who of us was prepared to forecast the mighty changes which have come to pass in these few months, changes which must very materially affect the work of our League. Then our country was at peace—now it has been drawn into the greatest war of all history, and as our Church is loyal to her country, so many of our members, some of whom were active in the work of the League, have responded to the call for service. Then again, within our own Church, during the past year, the possibility of union between various bodies, which has been the hope and prayer of many earnest members for years, has reached the point where a decision is to be made.

These very changes bring great responsibilities. There is great danger that the war especially will cause the spiritual life of the people to be overshadowed by the material. In the desire to meet the needs of the times, men are liable to forget God, or at least to make His claims and His service secondary, and it behooves us to impress upon our young people more strongly than ever the claims of spiritual life. God still rules, even if the world does seem to be turned upside down, and only those who accept Jesus Christ can hope for final victory. To bring the truth home to our young people is a duty which we owe to them, to our Church and to our country.

The work of the various districts of the State is most encouraging as shown by the various reports. Your president has received copies of the programs of a number of district conventions, and all of them show an earnest desire to give something that will be of real value to the locals. He has not been able to attend all of the conventions, but those he did attend manifested an earnestness and zeal that was inspiring. It showed that the young people had the interest of the Church very much at heart.

Your president would direct your attention to the treasurer's report. This is the most satisfactory one we have had for years, especially from the standpoint of dues to the National League, as all back dues have been paid up and some of this year's paid. We must appreciate the splendid efforts made by our treasurer to bring this all about. Your president would urge the delegates from those districts whose dues are still outstanding to make a special effort to have them paid.

The Jubilee Fund also needs the very earnest attention of all Leagues. The August number of our LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW shows the condition of the national treasury, and your treasurer's report shows that our State has averaged only 3.1 cents per capita, while the appeal is for 25 cents. Let us do our share and get down to work and raise the other 22 cents. The Luther League is worthy of our hearty support, and each delegate present is earnestly requested to take the matter back to the district and locals for further consideration and effort.

Your president would offer the following recommendations:

First. That each District League be requested to make a special effort during the coming year to enlist the interest of Leagues and societies on their territory not yet identified with the district for the purpose of securing them as members; and in churches where no young people's organizations exist, to consult with the pastor as to the possibilities for such an organization.

Second. That special efforts be made to organize Junior or Intermediate Leagues or both in all churches in the State, and that the Junior Work committee of the State Luther League consult and co-operate with similar committees of the various districts so as to plan for working out this program. Where districts do not have such committees we recommend they appoint one.

Third. In view of the great industrial changes which are taking place and the removal of our young people from place to place, your president would recommend that the State League take steps to follow up and safeguard these young people who may make such change of residence.

Fourth. That each local organization be requested to keep in touch with its members who may be called to the service of the Government, and to render them such aid as may be valuable.

Your president desires to express his appreciation of the co-operation and assistance rendered him by officers, committees and members during his term of office. Special mention should be made at this time of the splendid work of the secretary of the executive committee, for to him especially is the credit due for the arrangement and work done incident to the carrying out of the program of this convention.

Your president also very keenly regrets his inability to attend this convention. Business conditions have made it impossibile for him to be present at this time, and, though absent in body, he will be present in spirit. Because of the probable continuance of these conditions and the resulting lack of time to give the proper attention to the work, he would request that he be not considered for re-election. He would bespeak, however, the same hearty co-operation and assistance for his successor as he himself enjoyed.

This report was referred to the Committee on Resolutions and Papers.

The report of the Treasurer of the Luther League of Pennsylvania, Mr. M. Haller Frey, showed a slight improvement in the matter of collection of dues over that of the preceding year, and showed a balance in the treasury of $26.89.

This report was referred to the Auditing Committee.

The Report of the Statistician, Francis C. Leupold, showed marked improvement in some respects over that of one year ago; there being an increase this year of three senior and twenty-one junior organizations. He stated that while there was a decrease of membership, there was apparently less dead wood in the membership.

While the bare figures herein contained look in many instances like losses over previous reports, we find on investigation that *these are the rock bottom figures* and *the ones reported are the active live members*, and therefore report *the actual work force* of our locals.

Allentown District reports 26 senior and 10 junior organizations; 1,023 senior and 433 junior members; $579.93 for local and $307.10 for benevolence. Compared with last year the number of organizations are the same, with a decrease of 81 senior and an increase of 145 junior members. A decrease of $820.15 in local and $7.99 in benevolent offerings.

Berks District reports 19 senior and 7 junior or-

DELEGATES AT THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE LUTHER LEAGUE CONVENTION

ganizations with 925 senior and 300 junior members; $328.30 for local and $273.78 for benevolence. Compared with last year the number of organizations show an increase of 1 senior and 4 junior, and an increase of 50 senior and an increase of 107 junior members. The offerings show a decrease in local offerings of $239.15 and an increase of $58.81 for benevolence.

Bucks, Montgomery and Chester District reports 35 senior and 5 junior organizations with 2,595 senior and 268 junior members; $213.07 for local offerings and $505.90 for benevolence. Compared with last year there is a decrease of 1 senior and an increase of 3 junior organizations, with a decrease of 16 senior and an increase of 152 junior members. The offerings show an increase of $1,020.62 for local objects and an increase of $333.95 for benevolence.

Greensburg District reports 18 senior and 4 junior organizations with 656 senior and 233 junior members. The offerings were $290 for local objects and $15 for benevolence. Compared with the report of last year there is an increase of 1 senior and a decrease of 1 junior organization, with a decrease of 25 each in senior and junior members. The offerings show a decrease of $98.86 for local objects and $130.30 for benevolence.

Lancaster District reports 28 senior and 12 junior organizations with 1,083 senior and 474 junior members. Offerings amount to $775.96 for local objects and $116.83 for benevolence. Compared with last year there is an increase of 1 junior organization and a decrease of 64 senior and 182 junior members. The offerings show an increase of $436.23 for local objects and an increase of $4.33 for benevolence.

Northeastern District reports 20 senior and 4 junior organizations with 825 senior and 136 junior members. Offerings were $1,319.11 for local objects and $181.81 for benevolence. Compared with last year there is an increase of 14 senior members and 8 junior members, while the number of organizations remains the same. The offerings show an increase of $167.46 for local objects and $17.88 for benevolence.

Northwestern District reports 19 senior and 7 junior organizations with 939 senior and 399 junior members. The offerings amount to $634.56 for local purposes and $257.17 for benevolence. Compared with last year there is an increase of 3 senior and 1 junior organization, with an increase of 73 senior and 22 junior members. The offerings show a decrease of $283.30 for local objects and $422.83 for benevolence.

Philadelphia District reports 31 senior and 8 junior organizations with 846 senior and 219 junior members. Offerings amount to $818.20 for local objects and $243 for benevolence. Compared with last year there is a decrease of 2 senior and 4 junior organizations, and a decrease of 86 senior and 47 junior members. The offerings show an increase of $62.67 for local objects and a decrease of $144.72 for benevolence.

Pittsburgh District reports 59 senior and 40 junior organizations with 1,803 senior and 1,261 junior members. Offerings were $1,579.65 for local objects and $760.85 for benevolence. Compared with last year there is a decrease of 1 senior and an increase of 5 junior organizations, and a decrease of 278 senior and 333 junior members. The offerings show a decrease of $428.11 for local objects and $146.67 for benevolence.

Schuylkill District reports 14 senior and 7 junior organizations with 551 senior and 327 junior members. Offerings amount to $350.29 for local objects and $64.14 for benevolence. Compared with last year there is a decrease of 1 junior organization and an increase of 2 senior and a decrease of 56 junior members. Offerings show an increase of $5.58 for local objects and a decrease of $61.78 for benevolence.

Upper Lehigh Valley District reports 14 senior and 6 junior organizations with 621 senior and 395 junior members. Offerings were $612.58 for local and $262.55 for benevolent objects. Compared with last year there is a decrease of 2 senior and an increase of 1 junior organization, with a decrease of 159 senior and an increase of 35 junior members. The offerings show a decrease of $1,138.40 for local objects and an increase of $58.81 for benevolence.

York District reports 24 senior and 11 junior organizations with 830 senior and 467 junior members. Offerings were $513.76 for local objects and $282.07 for benevolence. Compared with last year there is an increase of 3 senior and 3 junior organizaitons, with an increase of 45 senior and 56 junior members. Offerings show an increase of $263.03 for local objects and a decrease of $2.33 for benevolence.

There are 4 senior and 1 junior organizations that report 98 senior and 11 junior members that are in direct connection with our State organization.

Summary: Number of districts, 11; senior organizations, 311; junior organizations, 122; senior membership, 12,795; junior membership, 4,923; with local object offerings amounting to $9,915.91 and offerings for benevolence $3,270.20. Total membership, 17,718, and offerings, $13,183.81.

The subscriptions to the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW and the Luther League Topics is as follows: REVIEWS, 1,058; Topics, 5,055. While these figures do not show all the subscriptions to these publications they do show how many are reported and that the subscriptions ought to be increased in this State.

All the statistics were gathered under the rulings of the convention of last year, when it instructed the statistician to gather his statistics through the district officers exclusively and not from the locals. While we believe the scheme is a good one it has not worked out entirely satisfactory owing to the inability of the statistician to secure the full co-operation of all the district officers. We believe, however, that it ought to be continued.

During the year the mailing list was revised and enlarged and now contains about 800 names and addresses. From this list there was sent three issues of the "State Bulletin" and other literature and the thanks of this convention are due to the assistant secretary, Miss Hirzel, who promptly and unaided addressed all such matter and saw to its mailing.

Owing to the illness of the editor of the Bulletin, the May and July issues of this year were edited by the statistician.

Your statistician would again call attention to the wall map and the need of redistricting the State, and for extension work into new fields.

While this report is far from being correct, due entirely to the lack of co-operation from more than fifty local organizations, we believe it will serve to instruct the delegates of the extensive work that is going on all over this State.

Your statistician has served this body in this capacity for four years, and he respectfully requests that this convention elect some one to succeed him.

This report was referred to the Committee on Papers and Resolutions.

The Rev. Harry A. Weller, D. D., President of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, delivered in a most masterly manner, a stirring address on "The Reformation, its Cause and Effect," in which he plead for unity in the church, so that all Lutherans work hand in hand for the salvation of the world. He said that many of the constitutional foundations of the United States could be traced to the early principles of the Lutheran Church. He urged the Church organizations to do practical work and less theorizing, and to make their one object the advancement of the cause of Christ.

At the close of this address a beautiful anthem, "How Beautiful upon the Mountain are the feet of them that Bring Good Tidings of Peace," was sung by the Choir of Trinity Church.

At the close of this session all Luther Leaguers were invited to the Parish House, where an informal reception was held; refreshments were served, and a general good time was had.

Third Session

The Third Session was called to order Wednesday morning.

At this time a gavel was presented by the York District to the Luther League of Pennsylvania, the presentation being made by Mr. M. Haller Frey, of York, Pa., in a brief address. This gavel was received and accepted by Mr. Menges, in the name of the Luther League of Pennsylvania.

The report of the Executive Committee was presented by K. J. F. Wilharm, Chairman. On motion, this report was referred to the Committee on Resolutions and Papers.

This report is as follows:

The executive committee is pleased with the progress of the past year, as evidenced by the financial and statistical reports. We had one meeting in Harrisburg on February 12, at which time plans were made for the current year's work and for the arrangement for this convention. The detail arrangements were handled by a sub-committee on program.

The State League Bulletin is well received by the officials of district and local organizations. This justifies the decision of a year ago to continue the publication. During the illness of the editor, Mr. P. Walter Banker, the work was ably handled by the secretary of our committee.

On account of the lack of funds little new work of an extension nature could be planned, but it is hoped that the coming year will permit more extension work.

No recommendations are offered, but we urge greater activity in all departments of League work.

The report of the Extension Committee was presented by the Chairman, Mr. William M. Mearig. Mr. Harry Hodges added to this report a brief report of his own work in connection with this Committee.

The report of the Junior Work Committee was presented by Rev. P. George Sieger, Chairman, of Lancaster, Pa., and referred to the Committee on Papers and Resolutions.

A greeting was read from St. John's Church, New Castle, and one from C. W. Herman Hess, New Castle.

A motion was made by Mr. Hodges, duly seconded and carried, that a greeting be sent to Dr. W. C. Stoever, of Philadelphia, in reply to his word of greeting to the Convention.

A message also was sent to Mr. C. W. Fuhr, President of the Luther League of Pennsylvania, in reply to his word of greeting.

Committees were appointed as follows:

Nominating Committee — John Greiner, Paul Spieker, George K. Gesler, Harry Hodges, Leon M. Probst, Daniel Amend, John Miller, D. A Kommel, Miss Anna Bair, Miss Elta Frederick, Mrs. H. Y. Yocum, Mr. J. H. Wisler.

Press Committee—D. A. Kommel, Christian Huber, H. H. Silling.

Auditing Committee—J. M. Deck, Ellis Stauffer, Esther Oesterling.

Resolutions Committee—Rev. H. W. Fitting, Miss Tillie Geiger, Rev. W. E. Apple, Miss Laura Swope, Mr. W. M. Mearig.

Committee on L. L. Review Subscriptions —Carl L. Fromuth.

State Convention subscribed for 1,000 special copies of the Review to contain a full account of the Convention, and the difference between those subscribed for by the Districts and the 1,000 subscribed for by the Luther League of Pennsylvania are to be sent to the Pastors in Pennsylvania, irrespective of whether they have leagues or not.

Rev. Ira F. Frankenfield, of Tower City, opened a conference on Junior Work, dividing the subject into three heads: "Why have a Junior League?" "What Constitutes Junior League Work?" and "How Is That Work Best Accomplished?" He showed that children all love to do something, and recommended that the children be given some specific work to do.

At the close of the conference on Junior Work, a conference on Intermediate Work was opened by Rev. A. T. Michler, of Philadelphia, who prefaced his remarks by saying that we want to hold our boys and girls, and that the Intermediate work of the Luther League is the relation of the Luther League principle to a specific period of our boys and girls, namely between the ages of 11 or 12 and 16 or even 17 years. The distinctive purpose of the Intermediate Luther League being religious and educational, the Intermediate Luther League work affords an opportunity for work on the part of young people of the church. He then showed many methods by which the work can be accomplished.

An address on "Luther Leaguers for the Work of the Ministry," was delivered by Rev. Aden B. MacIntosh, Norristown, Pa., in which he laid upon the hearts of all Luther Leaguers the responsibility of seeking out young men for the ministry, and of supporting them in a financial way, as well as encouraging them in the work and letting them know that the League is standing by them. Dr. MacIntosh said, in part:

When our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was about to leave the world He gave as a parting admonition to His disciples: "Go ye and teach all nations." He gave this not only to those men but to all men—the greatest honor and the greatest dignity imaginable. It is certainly a wonderful thing, and we lose the wonder because of our familiarity with it, that in order to carry the Gospel throughout the world He chose us—men and women. He was not confined to a human agency; He could send that blessed Gospel in some other way; He could have it proclaimed, if He so desired, by angels from Heaven, but God uses men as the preachers of His Gospel. We need the printed Word, but we need also the preached word; and I have no doubt that when those disciples first heard the admonition of Jesus it was with a sense of wonder that such an honor could be theirs, and as the years go by, and as young men stand up for ordination services, I am sure that to every one

there comes that same sense of wonder that God could use a man in such a way here on earth. As this great honor has been given to men, we dare not forget that with the honor there comes a heavy responsibility, not only upon those men who have been set aside for this particular work of preaching the Gospel, but there comes upon all Christian people, men and women alike, the great responsibility of seeing to it that the commands of our Lord are carried out, and that men are sent forth constantly and everywhere to preach the Gospel.

In the early days of Christianity, how many do you suppose spoke of the "foolishness of preaching," for while preaching is not exclusively confined to the Christian religion it is, notwithstanding, distinctive of it, and many and many a person must have smiled at the thought of the unlearned disciples coming forth to bring a new religion into the hearts of the mass of men, and yet what has not this accomplished? Can you think today of any great reform that has taken place in the world that has not been brought about by preaching? We think of the idols of Rome cast down; we think of the great wrongs of slavery; the wrongs of women, and how their liberation was brought about after years of preaching. We are going to see another great and awful idol, the Rum Demon, brought to its end by the foolishness of preaching.

The thing that we want to bring home to every Luther Leaguer is that the responsibility is yours, and it is yours just as much as those men who are ordained preachers of the Gospel, to see that the command of our Lord Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel is carried out. If you are a thorough Christian—and you will answer this question in your own hearts—if you are a thorough Christian, then you are one of two things, either you are a sender or one that is sent. What are you doing? What are you doing, either in sending men to preach the Gospel or in giving yourself for the preaching of the Gospel?

Would it not be a splendid thing if the Luther League should become a great recruiting agency for the Gospel ministry? I think of nothing that would give greater inspiration. Why, just think of it! If one from each League represented in this State League of Pennsylvania, if one man were sent to college this year to prepare for the Gospel ministry, how different would our ranks appear in seven or eight years. There is a chronic need of ministers.

Luther Leaguers can make it a part of their duty to find boys for the ministry. If we could bring the personal appeal home to the boy. If we could get our fathers and mothers, our teachers, to realize that the ministry is a man's work. There is abundance of hard man's work waiting for the minister, and for that work we want to get hold of boys full of vim and energy. A personal word to the boy in your school or League may be the instrument to get that boy to thinking and start him along the path to the ministry.

We should follow the boys after they go to the seminary. The Big Brother among the ministers is needed. It would be a fine thing for the Luther League to stand back of the student and encourage him. Not only should we find the boys and send them to college and follow them in college, but follow them to see to their support. It is not right to send a young man to college or the seminary with just enough to eke out a miserable existence, when he feels that he cannot buy a book or cannot go out among his fellows because he is not properly clad. I am not pleading for luxury, but that they may be given enough to well clothe and feed them and provide books.

Fourth Session

The fourth session opened Wednesday afternoon.

Acting President W. H. Menges read a letter of greeting from Mr. G. A. Ripple, a Luther Leaguer, of Honesdale, Pa., in which he requested that the League in convention read Psalm No. 46 and sing the hymn "Who Is on the Lord's Side," and the request was complied with. A letter of greeting from P. Walter Banker, Treasurer of the Luther League of America, was read to the convention, and the secretary was instructed to send a suitable reply.

A committee to collect the Jubilee Fund was appointed as follows: D. A. Kommel, John A. Greiner and J. M. Deck.

A Conference on Senior Luther League work was opened by Mr. Harry Hodges, General Secretary of the Luther League of America. He spoke briefly concerning the Luther League Topics, stating that many consider them difficult. He also stated that a demonstration would be given at this time of a Model Luther League meeting and the right use of the topics; a group of Luther Leaguers of the Philadelphia District having been appointed to conduct this meeting. These consisted of a President, or Leader, an Essayist, a Speaker, a Discussionist and a Pianist.

The model meeting opened with the usual devotional services, conducted by the Leader. A splendid essay on the topic "Protestantism and Industrial Progress," was read, and an address was delivered by the speaker. After the singing of a hymn, the discussion of the subject was opened by the discussionist.

An address on "Luther League Training for Works of Mercy," was presented by Rev. E. F. Bachman, D. D., housefather of the Mary J. Drexel Deaconess Motherhouse, Philadelphia, Pa., in which he outlined various ways in which Luther Leaguers can do work for their pastor and their church. Dr. Bachman said in part:

The Word of God is the only means of grace, and the works of mercy are to bring people to Christ.

The Church soon drifted away from the high ideal of Christ, and the Medieval Church in exalting the work neglected the Word, and on the other hand the Protestant Church is in danger of neglecting the work while exalting the Word. In the former, where the people suffered in every respect because of neglect of the Word of God, it brought about ignorance and slavery of the spirit, and on the other hand we have the tendency of leaders of the Church contenting themselves with insisting upon purity of doctrine and neglecting charity to such an extent that it took the period of rationalism to dethrone that orthodoxy and to show the Church its obligation to attend to the physical needs of men. Fortunately the Church has again, in the last seventy-five years, heard and heeded the call to unite both forces—the Word of God and the works of mercy—her confessions of faith and her exercise of love—and has thereby succeeded, and wherever this has been done, this union of two elements has succeeded in producing a type of Christianity which is better fitted to bring about an understanding and reconciliation between the two supreme forces—Capital and Labor. It is the deaconess who simplifies the works of mercy.

The Church is a barrier between two parties—capital and labor, and will do her share to avert the most serious conflict; if it can be done at all it will be done through the Church and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and we will all have a share in this conflict. It is proper to discuss this subject at this time, for when we look back to the beginning of the sixteenth

entury and to the causes that led to the Reformation, and on down to the modern era, we cannot scape the impression or conviction that the Church the fifteenth century—in fact the Medieval Church was possessed of far more works of mercy and a ar greater force of brilliant men and women to ercise the works of mercy than Protestantism can roduce to this day, and even now, in our own day, e Roman Catholic Church is erecting imposing institutions and having unlimited numbers of men and omen to do the work, whereas the Protestants are nping along and pleading with our people to help do the work, and our people sit by, thinking they e all right in admiration of the small force of men ho are doing it.

I am here to plead for a greater constancy to the urch; that more young people will volunteer their rvices—not merely for the diaconate, but for the tire work of the Church as is expressed in our orks of mercy. We may ask: How is it that the mans can furnish the men and women, and Protesntism has not produced them? Is there something rong with the Protestant doctrine? No, but there is mething wrong with us Protestants. The old dam is much alive and asserts himself to the detrient of the Church. Take the Roman Catholic docine of "good works." If you are going to love God nply because you are going to get eternal life ereby you are selfish; you must love Him for His n sake and Christ for His own sake. Common perience shows us that every one of us is so desed still in spite of his best efforts that after all fish methods are more powerful than a sense of ligation, and we must remember with shame the roach of those outside of the Church, as well as representatives of the Church of Rome, that they ve more of the spirit of sacrifice than we, though may not consider their motives in harmony with New Testament.

We now have found that common ground—that se of obligation to the Lord and the Church.

And now the Luther League and the training for rks of mercy engage our attention briefly:

What can the Luther League do in the first place? can raise up a volunteer force and put them to rk at home. Your pastor needs assistance, and ry worker must work in harmony with the pastor, no congregation can exist unless all of the forces the church work in harmony: and there is one d for every congregation, and he is divinely apnted; therefore, the Luther League will see to it t its workers work in harmony with the pastor. ry congregation has considerable clerical work to Let your League see to it that your pastor gets stance—some voluunteer that will sacrifice evening rs to help him with correspondence, etc. Furrmore, your pastor is expected to look after the ng and the training of these. Then we go to the chetical class. Your pastor does this work conntiously, and if a pastor puts forth efforts to e something of the boys and girls he will have spend much time in mere drill work—the words he scripture, hymns, the words of the catechism, Furnish some of your Leaguers to do this e drill work; that he may not spend his time in ing words, but in pressing home the vital truths he Gospel. Then there are the little ones not yet chool, but perhaps on the streets of the city. here no one in your Luther League who could the time to gather these children together for two hree hours in the morning, and in these impresable years bring hom to them the vital truths in stories of the Bible, and make merry with them, so lead them on to the Saviour? Then there are sick and the shut-ins and the strangers that move the neighborhood. Cannot you assist your pastthere? Could not some young woman of the ch go with the authority of the pastor and visit n? Would not that be a help? Would it not be ible to district and divide up your congregation districts and assign to each territory some ber of your congregation that lives in that ter-y to keep their eyes upon all strangers and then rt them to the pastor, and in this way make a vital force in your congregation?

hen you must have the regular force of deacon-. The work of the nurse is not a work of y, but a profession, just as you would consider work of the physician, but you cannot measure work which they do. Nevertheless they are paid and your obligation toward them is met; but on other hand you have the deaconess who receives no salary. The deaconess mother-houses have undertaken to train a number of these practical workers of the Church. For several years the Baltimore mother-house belonging to the General Synod, has trained a number of these with great success. The deaconesses have a twofold goal—they must be Christians and they must have special training. It depends upon what field of labor they take up—the hospitals, homes for aged, for orphans, for epileptics, for feeble-minded, for blind and crippled, hospices for young men and women, rescue homes, and also social service—each one calls for special training. These are the various branches which must be taught to those who would specialize for some field of work. The deaconess is the recognized official representative of the Church in her work of mercy. That gives her standing superior to that of any other worker. She, as a true deaconess, can say with St. Paul, "The love of Christ constraineth us."

After prayer, the convention adjourned.

Fifth Session

The fifth session was held in Trinity Church Wednesday evening following a delightful organ recital rendered by the organist of Trinity Church on the magnificent pipe organ. The devotional services were conducted by Rev. Schweikart, after which a beautiful anthem "Praise the Lord All Ye Nations," was rendered.

A splendid musical program was rendered by the Reformation Choir under the direction of Rev. Nathan R. Melhorn, Pastor of Trinity Church.

Rev. A. Steimle, D. D., of St. John's Church, Allentown, delivered an address on "The Ideals of Lutheranism." He said, among other things:

The historical note dominating all our Lutheran Church this year dwells chiefly on the glories and heroes of the past, but this evening we are going to follow the Apostles' example and forget the things that are behind and look at that which speaks of present needs and future results, "The Ideals of Lutheranism," and let us state at the very beginning that our ideal was not Luther; though we bear his name, it was not our own choice. It was thrust upon us by our enemies. We are quite conscious of Luther's shortcomings; his weaknesses. We know that he was a sinful man and needed forgiveness by Christ as every one born of a woman, that is, except the one, the "Man of Zazareth," yet Luther was a wonderful man, whose life and work have been subjected to more careful scrutiny than any other. His work covered over one hundred volumes and was most widely spread. His very conversation in his home, at his table, was put down from memory by his devoted followers as soon as possible, and his influence has been far reaching. There have been more than 2,000 volumes written about him in many languages, giving positive views. We have treatises on his sicknesses; essays on the kind of wine he drank. Some one has said, "Is it not out of place to speak so much of Luther since we have declared war with Germany?" The Church is not trying to end the war or settle labor questions, but it is engaged in a greater work, that of making men's hearts right, and when their hearts are right there will be peace. Thank God for the Reformation, which made an end to the Church engaging in affairs of the State.

It would be unusual if we did not turn to Luther for our defense of Lutheran ideals and find him still the prophet of the religious world. Some of the most beautiful thoughts written by him were in one little treatise, perhaps the clearest statement of Lutheran ideals, entitled "The Liberty of the Christian Man," written first in Latin and then later translated into German. This book was sent as a gift with his respects to the Pope one morning after the Bull of Excommunication had arrived at Wittenberg.

A Roman Catholic priest said, "A truly religious spirit breathes in its pages."

The freedom of faith, the service of love, these are the ideals of the Lutheran Church. "One thing," says Luther, "and one thing only, is necessary for Christian life and righteous liberty—the soul can do without everything else except the Word of God. The Word is the light of life. To preach the Word, to preach Christ, means to liberate the soul, to set it free and to save it. That is the ideal and the glory of our Church, to bring sinners into this blessedness. Never was this needed worse than today, this day of wonderful things, of wonderful inventions. Benjamin Franklin would open his eyes in wonder if he could stand a little while with Thomas Edison and see the wonders of that current he drew so gently from the skies. Our conversation is with San Francisco. Our news speeds across the waters and in the air. We play our pianos without touching a key. We sweep our rooms without using a broom. We ride around our streets without using a horse. We used to build bridges across our rivers; now we fly over them or under them. We see the same pictures in 1,000 places in the same hour. Our buildings are built sky-high. The subway train hurls us through the darkness and into the light. All these are the manifestation of the spirit of our day. Man is by nature a conqueror; men of affairs play with railroads; the biologist with live organism. Machinery now enables man to do in one day what it formerly took him a year to do. He is thinking in such large figures that he calls a brother to his aid. The very selfishness of man has made him social. He is either in a trust or a labor union. Everything is arranged by commission. The individual is buried out of sight. Even the newspaper is a vast impersonal thing. No longer do we turn to the editorial page; we no longer have time to read it. We no longer have time to read even the newspaper, and so things must be printed large enough that the whole trolley car can read the same paper at the same time.

Religion is a thing between God and the soul. Doubt and unbelief are the watchwords of our time. Sin has become a disease. The surgeon, not the preacher, must cure it. Judgment Day is no longer in the hand of the Father. Salvation is of human philanthropy. Never was the summons to hold to our ideals of spiritual things more important than today.

Sixth Session

The sixth session opened Thursday morning.

The report of the nominating committee was presented by the chairman, Mr. John Greiner, as follows:

President—William H. Menges, Menges Mills, Pa.

Vice-President—K. J. F. Wilharm, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Treasurer—M. Haller Frey, York, Pa.

Secretary—Marion V. Hirzel, Philadelphia, Pa.

Assistant Secretary—Irene Gable, Lancaster, Pa.

Statistician—Elmer E. Becker, Perkasie, Pa.

On motion, the nominations were closed. The secretary was then instructed to cast the ballot for these persons, and they were accordingly declared elected.

The Luther League of the First Lutheran Church of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, extended an invitation to the Luther League of Pennsylvania to hold its next annual convention, in 1918, in the First Church, Greensburg. This invitation was referred to the executive committee.

Rev. Harry, university pastor of the University of Pennsylvania, was then given the privilege of the floor, and he presented the subject of University Pastor and its great need and importance in holding young men and women in college to the faith of our Lutheran Church. He then stated the duties of such an office.

The report of the resolution committee was presented by the chairman, Rev. H. W. Fitting. Some discussion was entered into concerning the importance of recruiting the ranks of the gospel ministry and the establishment of a students' aid fund, and the matter was referred back to the committee to be presented to the Luther League of Pennsylvania at its next annual convention.

WILLIAM H. MENGES, PRESIDENT

Following is the report, as amended and adopted:

Resolved, that we thank the Berks District for their kind invitation to hold the twenty-fourth annual convention of the Luther League of Pennsylvania in Reading, and for their untiring efforts in making our coming and sojourn so joyous and the convention so successful and profitable. Special thanks are due to Mr. A. P. Body for his work in preparing for the entertainment of the convention, and the entertainment committee for the delightful plan of caring for us, permitting so much sociability, and for their efficient service, requiring so much ardent work. That we thank Trinity Lutheran congregation for the use of their church and chapel; and the organist and choir for their inspiring music. That we express our appreciation of the services of the janitor by some financial remuneration, the amount to be fixed by the executive committee. That the delegates here assembled express their appreciation and endorsement of the program of the convention, and

thank all who so ably assisted in its arrangement.

Resolved, that 500 copies of the Constitution of the Luther League of Pennsylvania be printed.

Resolved, first, that each District League be requested to make a special effort during the coming year to enlist the interest of Leagues or societies on their territory not yet identified with the district for the purpose of securing them as members; second, in churches where no young people's organization exists, to consult with the pastor as to the possibility of such an organization; third, in view of the great industrial changes which are taking place, and the removal of our young people from place to place, we recommend that each local League take steps to follow and safeguard the young people who may make such a change of residence; fourth, that each local League be requested to keep in touch with those of its members who may be called to the service of the Government in defense of our country, present them with a copy of the New Testament and Psalms, and do render them such aid as may be valuable to them.

Resolved, that special efforts be made to organize Junior or Intermediate Leagues, or both, in all churches in the State, and that the Junior Work committee of the Luther League of Pennsylvania consult and co-operate with similar committees of the various districts as to plans for working out this program. Where districts do not have such committees we recommend that they appoint them.

Resolved, first, that this convention lay the lack of students for the Gospel ministry before the local Leagues of the State, and urge them to secure desirable boys and young men for the work of the holy ministry, encourage them while at college and seminary, and, where possible, give them financial aid; second, that the officers of the State League be authorized to send a communication to the officers of the local Leagues, informing them of the action of the State League, and emphasizing the personal responsibility of every Luther Leaguer.

Resolved, that the Luther League of Pennsylvania heartily endorses the founding of training schools for city workers in our Deaconess Mother Houses at Baltimore and Philadelphia, and directs the attention of her local Leagues to these schools, and urges the Leagues to take advantage of the courses offered.

Rev. Ambrose Hering, superintendent Lutheran Inner Mission Society, Pittsburgh, gave a splendid address on "Breaking Church Ties in Times of War." Among other things, he said:

"The breaking of church ties is serious at all times, but more serious in war times. We do not realize that a dangerous place a railroad station is. It is the headquarters for the white slave traffic. The war is going to break up and disturb relationships which have been going on for years. We have to adjust ourselves to new duties, new responsibilities. It is not up to the young man who goes to the trenches to bear all the burden, but it is the people at home who have the great burden. The young men who go to the front will acquit themselves like men, but are we going to back them up and stand our ground and do our work at home? We are going to give out Testaments; we are going to give them a fine send-off—the danger is that we are going to forget the occasional letter after six months, or forget them in our prayers. The biggest danger is the fact that we do not consider the side issues to the war, the work at home.

"It is going to be true that during the next eighteen months there will be a large number of young women leaving small towns and going to larger cities, leaving the country community, the farms, and going to the city to do that which the newspapers have drummed into their ears, to take positions which are offered them. That is going to draw our women. The young men vacate their places; the nation needs them; the employer needs somebody to take their places; he has concluded to take young women. In the industrial world positions are opened up to young women. The employer will give the girl $12 where he gave the young man $15. The industrial enterprises will take on any number of young women; they will not inquire about what kind of a home these young people will have to go into. There are few who as that inquire whether the young people have homes or friends to go to. It is the duty of the Luther League to safeguard these young people, to follow them into the cities and look after them.

This war is going to make more changes. Our young men are going over to Europe. After the war is over there will be needed enterprising engineers, and young Americans may come back—possibly not. They may be followed by our prayers or not. We are face to face this morning with grave obligations. We stand upon the threshold of a new era in the history of the world, and it is going to draw upon the resources of our people. And, judging by the past, we are going to use a good many good Lutherans to help other denominations. I am a pacifist, but I believe this nation, when the war is over, will be built on a military basis. Our boys will not be sent home when the war is over, but will be kept as a reserve standing army of at least 500,000 men. The army in America is a permanent institution. I mention this because we are not just considering the emergency of today.

The denomination of the future that is going to have the best results will be a denomination that has members who are warm-hearted and have a big love for any man that drops into the church and does not know just where to sit. We Lutherans have a way of ostracising strangers. Some churches are considered ice-boxes; thaw them out; reach out your hand to the stranger and let him know that he is in the House of God, worshipping with Christians.

We have to do two or three things. In the first place I am going to suggest that the Luther League of Pennsylvania as a State organization appoint a standing committee whose purpose or whose work will be to safeguard the stranger. In Missouri they call it a hospice committee. That committee should see that in each district there is a similar committee, and that in each local League there is a committee appointed or elected for the task of making strangers feel at home.

Second, that in the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW there be given publicity to the fact that in twenty-four of our big American cities there are hospices to safeguard the strangers. The first was begun in 1905.

In every town or community that does not have such a hospice, have a committee whose work is to safeguard the stranger going to the city. Help him to get a job, help him get a clean boarding house—what a fine thing that would be. Our Luther Leaguers—shall they travel in peril and arrive as strangers in a strange city; or will our Luther Leaguers welcome and safeguard the stranger Leaguer?

At the close of this address Mr. Hodges made a motion that the Luther League of Pennsylvania request the executive committee of the Luther League of America to present at its next convention a program whereby the Lutheran stranger can be cared for and safeguarded in our cities.

The conference on Junior and Intermediate work was opened by Rev. P. George Sieger of Lancaster, Pa. He stated that the conscious or unconscious influence in the home is a great factor in Junior life. Training for service is the principal thing in Junior work. Boys and girls are trained in public school to be citizens. The Junior should train them for officers in the Christian life. A leader of a Junior should be sincere, regular in habits, be true. Take note of the good things done, and give girls and boys something to do.

Seventh Session

The seventh session of the convention was held Thursday.

The report of the credential committee was presented by Mr. F. C. Leupold, showing a total attendance of delegates, visitors, speakers and officers of 300, the largest registered attendance in recent years, and the largest representation of

pastors in the history of the League, there being forty-four pastors registered.

A vote of thanks was extended to the retiring officers, President C. W. Fuhr, Statistician F. C. Leupold, and the secretary, Jane M. Truxal.

A public vote of thanks was extended to the venerable and honored Mr. A. P. Body for his work in connection with this convention, who responded in a brief address.

The president appointed the standing committees for the ensuing year, as follows:

Executive Committee—F. C. Leupold, Chairman, Philadelphia, Pa.; W. H. Menges, Menges Mills; K. J. F. Wilharm, Pittsburgh; M. Haller Frey, York; Charles W. Fuhr, Pittsburgh; Dr. L. C. Manges, Harrisburg; George M. Jones, Reading; Rev. P. George Sieger, Lancaster; John A. Greiner, Scranton.

Extension Committee—John A. Greiner, Chairman, 1317 Myrtle Street, Scranton.

Junior Work Committee—Rev. P. George Sieger, Chairman; Rev. I. G. Frankenfield, Tower City; Charles W. Fuhr, Pittsburgh; Miss Ida Zinser, Philadelphia; Mrs. A. M. Mehrkam, Rochester.

An address was delivered by Rev. C. P. Wiles, D. D., editor *Lutheran Young People*, on "The Problem of Religious Education." He said in part:

The Home, the State, the Church, are three institutions affected by religious education. The religion in the public schools should be in the teacher and not in the reading of any book. The family of today fails in the work of religious education. Statistics show that 85 per cent of the Protestant ministers in America came from religious homes. Prayer in the home is a necessary asset to religious life. Twenty millions of young people in this country are without any religious education, either in the home or in churches, and these shall help to set the standards of the morals of the future.

The time to teach a truth to an individual is when that individual is hungry for it. Seventy-five per cent of the additions to the Methodist Church has come from the young people. The Lutheran Church lays much stress upon the education of the child mind, and it *must* in order to live. The Lutheran Church has not taken its place toward the unbaptized child as it should have; the whole field is ours; let us take it all in.

The Bible is the Body of Truth, to make us true and pure, and nowhere else will this be found. The Bible is saved by being left loose, by teaching it everywhere. Simple truths of the Bible are on the surface, and we should make good use of these truths. We can head off all heresies by the dissemination of religious literature, much of which can be had for the asking.

Parents, pastors and Sunday school teachers are responsible for the spread of religious education. The parent was the first one given this responsibility, for out of the home must come our Church members and the citizens of the State. Officers of various organizations should impress this duty upon the minds of parents. Not all religion is taught in the church, for the parents must begin and continue the work in the home.

Jesus was teacher and preacher. Preaching is proclaiming, publishing, heralding. Teaching is more direct than preaching. The reformers were great teachers. The pastor ought to be an educator besides being a preacher. The young people should be taught the belief of our Church.

The Sunday school teacher is the most painstaking, devoted and willing source of education in the church, and has much to set forth to the Sunday school scholar in a very short time. The triumph of the Reformation is due to the willing and devoted workers—teachers in that day.

At the close of this address the president called upon Mr. Harry Hodges, general secretary of the Luther League of America, for some final remarks, in which he spoke briefly of the great work that is before us and the need for all Leaguers to be up and doing, after which the session closed.

The visiting delegates were then given a most delightful treat by being privileged to enjoy an automobile ride to the top of Penn Mountain, from which we enjoyed a fine view of the city, hundreds of feet below. From there we were driven over the city and the surrounding country. Later the delegates gathered at the Y. M. C. A. Auditorium, where a most delightful banquet was tendered, and there was not only food for the body but there was also food for the mind and the soul. The Luther League Rally Hymn was sung, and Rev. M. J. Bieber offered prayer before partaking of the splendid repast which was set before us. At the close of the dinner Mr. Robbin B. Wolf, Esq., of Pittsburgh, Pa., delivered a splendid address on "The Challenge of the Reformation to the Luther League," in which he discussed various phases of the Reformation movement, and told of some of the work accomplished by Martin Luther.

Mr. Wolf dwelt particularly on the high calling of the ministry, and the great honor which is due to those engaged in this work, and the duties which church members owe to their pastors, and the many ways in which they can help in the work and relieve overworked and overburdened pastors, and Mr. Wolf continued, saying in part:

The pastor should not be epected to do all the detail work in connection with running a church. He should preach the Gospel and administer the sacraments, but he should not be expected to do everything. He should be the leader, but his people should follow him and do all they can to help him.

The Luther League as an organization in the church can do much to help along in this work and hold up the arms of the pastor.

Church members should co-operate with the pastor in all his undertakings, and should not pull in the opposite direction or permit the pastor to do all the pulling for the church. A minister had a dream in which he thought he had his church edifice loaded upon a wagon and was trying to pull it along the road. It seemed to him a very difficult task, but then he saw some of the prominent members of his congregation appear on the scene, and he was glad, for he thought now he would have their assistance. If they did not help to pull he thought they would surely push, and so the wagon with the church on it would move along. By and by the load became so

(*Continued on page* 22.)

Luther League of Ohio

Twenty-second Annual Convention at Galion, August 29-30, 1917

THE Quadri-Centennial Convention of the Luther League of Ohio was held in the First Lutheran Church, Galion, Ohio, Rev. O. C. Kramer, pastor, on Wednesday and Thursday, August 29 and 30, the convention theme being "Progress."

Opening Session.

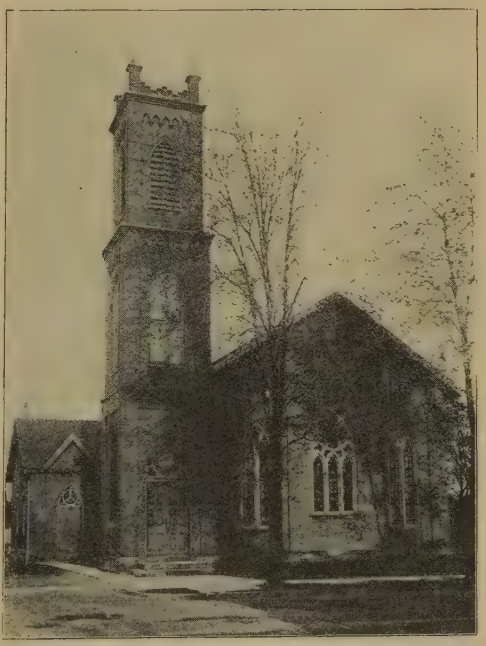
The convention sermon was preached by Rev. J. S. Herold, of Miamisburg, Ohio, from the text, the 10th verse of the 4th chapter of II Timothy: "Deemas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world," from which he chose as the subject, "The Christian Quitter, or Slacker," and in part said:

It is but natural when Lutherans gather together this remarkable year, when we celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Reformation movement, that our thoughts go back through the years of history and we think with gratitude of all the blessings that God has showered down upon our Church in the days gone by, and this morning these figures before us, viz., 1517 and 1917, remind us that we are living in a memorable year—that when we gather as American Lutherans, as Lutheran Americans, we are not only thinking of the great things that God hath done for our Church throughout the ages that have come and gone since the great Reformer nailed his 95 theses to the castle church, but we are thinking of the great conflict and the great struggle that is going on in the world at the present time—the great conflict and the great struggle that seems to have reached its climax in this year 1917 and today our hearts are not only filled with gratitude to God for all the grace and blessings He has shown unto us in the days gone by and since the year 1517, but our heads are bowed for the sorrowing as we realize and we begin to realize it more day after day as our boys, our sons and our brothers are called to the colors, we realize more and more day after day—that our nation has become part of the great conflict and struggle that is going on in the world and as Lutherans and as Luther Leaguers, it is but natural that we should examine our hearts and our minds so that we in the sight of God and in the sight of man may do those things that our Church and our country expect of us.

The Apostle Paul tells us of a man who lost his dream, a man who had started right, a man who had had a dream of accomplishing and doing great things for the kingdom of the Lord, but the man became discouraged, forsook Paul and went back to the old life and went back to the world—a man who lost his dream. You know back of everything beautiful in the world, somewhere there is a dream; that every good deed that has been accomplished you will find somewhere in the world a man who had a dream and because that man remained true to the dream and vision, at last there came the hour of fulfillment. Back of every great invention, back of all the world's progress there has been the dream and vision that men have had. Joseph had a dream and his brethren ridiculed the dreamer, but the day came when they were glad Joseph had his dream in years gone by and because of that dream and vision, he was in the hour of need, able to save the nation from starving in their time of need. Men have dreamed their wonderful dreams and at last the dreams have become true—back of every great deed and back of everything that is worth while in the Kingdom of God there is the dream and the vision of some man or some woman of God.

"Deemas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world"—then the apostle tells of a man who had not only lost his dream, but a man who had misplaced his love—a man who had forsaken Christ, a man who had forsaken the Church and who loved the world. For after all, just as God comes to us through His messengers sent into the world to preach the Gospel and comes to us through the means of grace through this organization, whenever we forsake Christ's representatives, whenever we forsake the organized Church, whenever we forsake Paul, we forsake the Master.

There are so many people who will tell you, even though they are not active members of any organized church, that their hearts are in the right place and that their influence is with the Church and for the Kingdom of the Master. They will tell you they love all churches and they like to attend services in different churches and that they love all churches so well that they cannot make up their minds to unite with any particular congregation. However, my experience, and I suppose your experience is the same as mine, I have never found a man or woman who loves all churches equally well who is faithful to any church. After all, we cannot get away from denominationalism—as the Church of Christ is organized today. I have all respect and honor for the man who may be a Methodist and who is a faithful Methodist, or the man who may be a Presbyterian and who may be a faithful Presbyterian, but for the man who will tell me that he loves all churches and denominations equally well, he is generally found faithless when it comes to carrying on the great work of the Kingdom of God here upon earth. If we want to do our part in the Kingdom of God, we want to take our place in the Kingdom of God here on earth—we must give our life service in work to some congregation, to some organization.



ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH, GALION, WHERE THE STATE CONVENTION WAS HELD

The saddest entries a pastor must make in his church record are made with invisible ink. When some one asks for a letter of transfer, it is an easy thing to know what to write back of the name; when some one falls asleep in Jesus and is transferred from the Church militant to the Church triumphant, it is easy to know what to write back of the name of a Christian who has been brought back home, but how often a pastor is puzzled to know what to do with

the names of some of the men and women, the names of some of the young people that stand upon his church record who have drifted away, who have drifted into indifference, who have drifted into the world.

I note the theme of this convention is "progress," so permit me to close and bring to you the msesage that God brought to the people of Israel when he spoke to Moses and said, "Tell the children of Israel to go forward," and so today, Luther Leaguers, in this memorable year we can have you go forward with the flag of your country in one hand, the flag that has stood for justice throughout the years our nation has been established, and go forward with the flag of Jesus Christ, the emblem of emancipation to men, in the other hand—forward to greater progress and to greater success until the Luther League will be found in every congregation doing great things. That is what its founders dreamed of—a vision of more than twenty-five years ago; some one had a dream of the young people in the Church, and God grant that the dream and vision of the founders of the Luther League twenty-five years ago will be realized—that there will be greater activity and success.

Second Session

The second session opened with devotional services. Mr. Harry Hodges, president pro tem., devoted a short time to business, calling for committee reports and assigning new committees.

The Statistical Report, compiled by Mr. Rohde, was as follows:

On Mr. Murray Moist's statement after election last year, that he would be unable to take care of statistics, I took charge of the matter, and with the help of Miss Marion Caines, our Corresponding Secretary, gathered such statistics as we could secure from the various organizations. We hand you herewith report of Leagues as shown in statistics received. Many did not reply, and we are at a loss to account for them.

According to these statistics there are in the State organization 45 Senior organizations with a total membership of 1,422, and 5 Junior Leagues with a total membership of 128. However, from the roll we find 111 Leagues, total membership unknown, estimated about 3,000. We recommend that definite measures be taken at this convention to secure active statistics at stated times, and that rules in regard to statistics be fully enforced.

The chairman of the Extension Committee, Mr. James H. Barr, gave the following report:

New Leagues organized during the year: Berlin Center, Lordstown, and Kent Junior; Augsburg Church, Toledo; Plymouth, Pleasant City and Buffalo and Covington, Ky.; making a total of 7 Senior Leagues and 1 Junior. During the past year increases activity and interest has been manifested in many places, and many new Leagues in prospect. We recommend that the district presidents or chairmen of Extension Committees make quarterly reports to the State Committee as to the interests of their local Leagues, new organizations, prospective ones and a corrected list of officers.

The following greeting from our former General Secretary, Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, and now editor of THE REVIEW, was then read: "I extend cordial greetings to the Ohio State Luther League Convention. May it be your most successful convention. Loyally adhere to the tried principles which have made the League the agency it is to our beloved Church; heartily support the REVIEW and Topics; be true to the Stars and Stripes."

Mr. James H. Barr, of Galion, gave the address of welcome. The State President's response was read by Rev. Nicholson, pastor in charge of devotional service.

In the absence of Mr. Rohde, Miss Marion Caines, of Toledo, read his paper on "The Junior and Intermediate Problem," which was in part as follows:

For some reason or other the Luther League of Ohio has not given the attention to Junior and Intermediate League work that it deserves. There is no work that bears better fruit, and brings greater results than work among the boys and girls of our churches. We are all of us willing to concede the fact that in the boys and girls of today rests the future of our Lutheran Church; we are all also willing to concede that if we expect the boys and girls of today to be the Christian men and women of the days to come, that they must be trained early so that they may not be lost by the time they reach the age of confirmation; and I think we are all willing to agree to the statement that just attendance at Sunday School is not enough for the average American boy and girl.

If you will study the facts, you will soon realize that Sunday School does not keep a very great percentage of our children in the Church. In the first place, very few of our Churches have really trained teachers, and as a result the work is taken care of in sort of a haphazard fashion. Some of the children get real value out of the school, while others, having inferior teachers, really learn very little, and get practically no inspiration for their later life. It is a wonderfully great problem to study the mind of the child. It is a problem that scientists are continually arguing about. We hear from time to time facts and figures as to just when and how such and such a thing should take place in a child's life, and how at this time or that time, the child mind can grasp things, and then assimilate them, and then memorize the things they come in contact with.

We send a child to public school at six, so that it may begin at the bottom, and gradually acquire the knowledge that will be of use to it in later life. It must go through a course of gradual development, and only as it shows ability and a grasp of the things taught, does it progress from one subject to another. The teachers in our public schools are taught the fundamentals of psychology, and of pedagogy, and all the scientific "ogies" in the curriculum, so that they may be the better able to deal with the child mind and train it in the right way. If a child is backward, or slow in its perceptions, that fact is taken into account, and by giving the child special attention it can be brought up to the standard of the others.

But what of the Church? We have the children in the Sunday School. Yes, we teach, or rather try to have them taught the elements of religion in much the same manner as they are taught the A, B, C's in the public school. We have graded systems. We try and have our teachers consider the child mind, and to teach accordingly. Sometimes it is done, more often not. The average child, after a course such as is given in our average Sunday School, can tell you very little about God and His work. They go on to catechism, and in many cases, more thoough fear than love, learn the catechism and the verses, etc., which the pastor faithfully drills into them. Then they go on to the Luther League—sometimes. More often they do not go on. In many, many cases confirmation ends the efforts to learn more of God and His work, and two years after confirmation brings a complete forgetting of all the things of God, and a practical return to godlessness.

It may seem to many of you that this is an arraignment of the things that are here for good. It is not! It is simply a cold statement of fact to make you think! It is simply trying to bring forcibly to your attention the crying need for work among the children. Sunday School and confirmation are not enough. If our public men found that three grades in school would prepare the child mind enough to prepare it for the duties of life, do you imagine for one minute they would give the children more? If public men found that it did not pay to try and teach a child until it is 12, do you think they would begin at 6? No, they have found that each child needs just what it is getting, and they are enforcing the laws, so that each child does get its education in full measure. We know that the average

child does not get all it should know in the short hour per Sunday; we know that a child is not complete in religious instruction when it is confirmed; and we know that something ought to be done to avoid this fearful dropping out of our boys and girls within a year or two after confirmation. We all know that it is necessary, that we are the responsible parties ,but we do not take it to heart as we should. If we did, there would be Junior and Intermediate work in every Church in the State inside of a year. Each Church has children to prepare for the future of the Church. Each Church has young men and young women, and old men and old women, who are able, and who can if they will, devote part of their time to work among the boys and girls. Each League has members who are fitted for this task. You are always, at every convention, asking 'What can we do?" Here is a task. Here is something you can do, something you are well able to do, something that will be well worth while. Here are hundreds of children starving for spiritual food, hungering for the Word of God, given to them in easier and better ways than can be done in Sunday School or in the regular routine of the Church. Here is the thing you have been asking for year after year. Now go and do it!

A very lively discussion followed this paper, conducted by Mr. Hodges.

The subject "Senior Luther League Work" was discussed by Mrs. W. C. Hanning, of, Detroit, Mich., who said in part:

First of all I would suggest singing a hymn of a devotional spirit, one that will immediately put into the mind of that young boy or girl such a reverence for God that they cannot talk about anything of a rough or coarse nature. There are so many good devotional hymns, and I would suggest that we use the regular Luther League Hymns wherever at all possible. Then ask either the leader or some one in the audience to offer prayer. And this is something we must educate more of our young people to do—pray. We are now ready to have our topic, in which should be brought out our own thoughts, and should be worked out by the individual. Ask the pastor to add something to what has already been said—but don't fail to spend enough time on the topic. Above all, don't allow a lull for one moment in the service, sing an extra hymn if need be, but don't have a lull. Then we close the meeting in the regular way.

We must train our young people socially. If we are not socially inclined, if we are not mixers, how can a Luther League grow? Leaders of your social committees should be good mixers and the type of people that should make other people feel at home if there is a stranger at our meeting, do not let him get out without a good handclasp and a warm invitation to the social or whatever we may be going to do in a social way. Make people think the church offers something beside a long face. One of our great needs is a world vision of Christianity. How can we expect that Easter catechetical class will have a vision of Christianity and to do mission work if the older folks don't? We should be working in the Kingdom of God. If we have not had before a world vision of Christianity, let us never have this meeting this afternoon without consecrating our lives to God for the great work He has for us to do.

The Luther League is a post-graduate school of the catechetical class. We regret to say that ofttimes after the class has gone out from its training of once or twice a week or more often, and is ready to enter active work, there is nothing definite for them to do and consequently in years to follow as we go over our Church roll and try to find out where are he and where is she, they have wandered away from us because we gave them nothing active to do in our Churches.

During the discussion which followed this subject, Mr. Hodges gave the standard of efficiency for a Luther League as follows:

1. An average attendance at meetings of at least one-half the enrollment.
2. Punctual attendance.
3. Have at least the following officers present: President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer.
4. Have at least the following committees present: Devotional, Membership, and Social.
5. Meetings begun on time.
6. Leaders present and prepared.
7. At least once per quarter each active member take part in the meeting.
8. Daily reading of the Bible by all members.

Third Session

The third session of the convention opened with vesper services. The choir rendered the anthem "And the Glory of the Lord" in a very fitting manner. The address of the evening was delivered by Rev. R. H. Benting, of Toledo, Ohio, taking as his subject "Are These Things So?" and said in part:

Fellow Luther Leaguers: It is a privilege to be permitted to address the Luther League of Ohio in State Convention assembled. I regard it as a special privilege and an honor; for I look upon the delegates who are in attendance this evening as representatives of their respective local Leagues, as the hand picked fruit of the Lutheran Church in Ohio, and hand picked fruit is always regarded as the best.

It seems to my mind that when we begin to classify the members of the Church, we should not regard all members as being alike, or equally zealous and devoted in the work given unto us; but that we ought to recognize a difference. There are those who for some reason or for no reason—especially for no reason—have become disgruntled with the work of the Church. They exercise the divine right of criticizing, kicking and knocking about almost everything that is planned or done by the faithful members—they are the "sour milk" of the congregation. Then there are those who have lost the ardor and zeal manifested by them in former years. They do only enough to be always assured of a Christian burial—only enough, and no more—they are the "skim milk" of the congregation. Then there are those multitudes of faithful members who perform all the duties prescribed by the constitution, pay their dues, attend the services, and fulfill the letter of the law; the backbone of every congregation—they are the "sweet milk" of the congregation. Finally, we know of a few people, in every parish, who do the work of the "slackers" and the backsliders; who shoulder the burdens of the indifferent; who hold the offices that would go begging, but for them; who attend conventions, even if self-sacrifice is involved—they are the "cream" of the congregation, and I believe many of you are part of this class of members. If some among you think you do not deserve this compliment, then I hope you will endeavor to improve, until you actually do become a part of the cream of the church.

Two thoughts come to my mind, as I study this audience and this text. The first thought is this: "Luther Leaguers Should Study History." When the high priest asked "Are these things so?" Stephen did not only reply, but he gave an answer. He did not look about himself, anxiously bewildered and uncertain; he did not preface his answer with a "but" or an "if" or a "people claim it is so"; but he opened his mouth and recited history until his accusers held their ears closed, leaped onto him in raging madness, seized him, and dragged him to the place of execution, where they stoned him to death. Stephen put his accusers to shame, because he was a student of history. And I would urge upon every person of this audience, "Luther Leaguers Should Study History!"

Luther Leaguers should study history. Do you know that you stand accused before the high priest every day of your lives? If you do not know that, you must be asleep, or dying, or dead. Every Lutheran stands accused before the high priest. Indeed, it is not a Jewish high priest, but a high priest as real as any priest that ever breathed. It is the high priest of slander and intrigue. This is the sentiment of the avowed enemies of the Lutheran Church. Before this high priest you people, every Lutheran, stand accused. And false witnesses have arisen, to testify to slander and lies against us, against our faith, and against our dear Church. When enemies of our Church falsely distort our doctrines and per-

vert our code of principles, do you not feel that you are being accused? What will you answer? "Are these things so?" When they say that Luther is responsible for all the evil that has come into the world, during the last 400 years, what will you answer? When they besmirch Luther's fair name and heap slander upon the fair name of our Church, will you not defend your spiritual mother? You may arise and cry "Slander! Slander!" but any child of five is able to do as well. That is no defense. "Are these things so?" How are you going to answer unless you have studied history? You will not be able to answer that question, and it matters not how learned and accomplished you are, you will not be ready to give answer, unless you are familiar with the great facts of history. And for this reason, I believe, every intelligent Luther Leaguer who claims to be "Of the Church and For the Church" will study history, especially if he believes in the theme of this convention, which is "Progress."

But is it our duty thus to defend our Church and ourselves? Do we owe this duty to God and man? This brings us to the second thought: "Luther Leaguers Should Bear Testimony." Did you ever consider, when you heard this narrative about Stephen's defense, in school and home, how Stephen happened to get himself into this mix-up? Was it it not a foolish thing to do? Would it not have been infinitely better policy on his part, if he had remained silent on the questions and doctrines that incensed the opponents? Would it not have been the part of wisdom, if Stephen had turned his back upon those whom he had already attracted by his teachings, now that danger was visible? Why did he become involved in this trouble, anyhow? Friends, only a coward and traitor will thus reverse himself! Only a false disciple will hesitate to bear witness to the Truth when danger is threatened. Listen! Stephen was not one of those spineless, double-faced disciples who say "Good Lord and Christ!" in one corner of the town, and "Sweet devil!" in another corner of the same town.

St. Stephen bore witness, that caused his death. Stephen, the layman. And every Luther Leaguer who does not account himself as a perfect man will endeavor to imitate, in a measure, this noble example of that great Christian layman. The professors of the synagogue in Jerusalem were stirred, when they heard about the commotion caused by the witness-bearing of Stephen. They said, as it were, "Who is this Greek that is causing our young men and young women to become doubters, then listeners, and finally followers of that accursed Nazarene whom we crucified? Does he imagine that he can run this town to please himself? We will put him out of the way!" When Stephen witnessed so powerfully that society was becoming revolutionized, false witnesses were hired, Stephen was condemned to die; but he did not die as a traitor—he died as a witness for his Saviour and his Saviour's Church. That is the duty I wish to impress upon your minds as we are gathered in this Jubilee Convention. And in this respect our theme, "Progress," nicely reminds us of one of our first obligations in the home congregation, in the home town. There we are to discharge our duty as witness-bearers for Christ, even as Stephen bore witness.

This is the four hundredth anniversary of the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century, as our slogan reads, and we hope to aid in the Transformation of the Twentieth Century, as our slogan continues. I hope the speaker at the service tomorrow evening will dwell more at length on this subject, and he can do it more adequately than I can; but shall we celebrate the great event with a record festival and celebration? Yes! Where? At home! How? By studying history for ourselves, then by helping our Leaguers to become engrossed in the study. But, most important of all, let us celebrate the anniversary by living in practical life the word elevated to the position of general theme for this convention, namely, "Progress." Let us make progress everywhere! Let us never again hear any "Lamentations of Jeremiah" at conventions! Let us never again hear that some Luther Leagues fail to pay their dues in time! And let us never again report that any officer of the Luther League has been living in trying hopes that he would finally receive his just compensation! Oh, that we would imitate St. Stephen! What a blessed life we should have before us! What a satisfaction to know in whom and in what we believe, and to be able to meet friend and foe in supreme confidence that we are able to "give reason for the hope that is in us." If we hear of unpopularity threatening because of our zeal for the truth, let us open our lips and say: "I am a Lutheran, and I have learned enough to know why I am a Lutheran! I testify to the truth, and I know that it is my solemn duty to do so, at all times!"

Immediately after this service a reception was held for all the delegates and visitors in the parlors of the church.

Fourth Session

The fourth session opened with devotional services. Mr. Matthes, State treasurer, submitted his report to the convention, same showing a balance on hand last year of $435.56; receipts during the year, $131.67; expenditures, $159.99; balance to date, $407.24. Bills were presented and ordered paid, and the treasurer's report was referred to an auditing committee.

At this time an invitation was extended the Ohio State Luther League to meet in convention next year at Springfield, Ohio, and it was heartily accepted.

The president's report for the year was then read by the presiding chairman, Mr. Hodges, as follows:

Two years ago you honored me by electing me to the highest office in your power to bestow; last year you honored me by re-election. Today I hand you this report, to give you an account of my stewardship.

Now then, for the facts. I will try and take up one case at a time, and then make a recommendation to cover it, before I go on to the next.

1.—Last year the most urgent need was for co-operation and increased efficiency in all branches of our work. At convention we promised it. Reports at this convention will show how the idea of last convention took.

In most cases the district officers have given me better co-operation this year than last, though some have still a long ways to go in this respect.

We will need to go further in this matter of co-operation so that our efficiency as a State organization may increase. We, as a State organization, have that as our one great purpose. We are the link between local and district and the great national organization. Are we doing our part as efficiently as possible?

In this connection I would recommend that the convention take action asking all district officers to report at least every three months to the State president so he may keep in touch with their work.

2.—We want some definite action to increase Junior and Intermediate work. I recommend that this convention take action which will bring the question before every local League and pastor, and that each local League shall send its action in the matter to the district officers and they in turn report to the State president.

3.—The Luther League of America is our parent organization. Let us give it a fuller measure of support. Let us get in touch with its affairs, and try and be a cog in its machinery. Ohio is challenged by the other States to make a showing that will compare with them. Let us try. Let us learn more fully what the National League is, what it is trying to do. Let us try and in every way support its objects, and be factors in its growth.

I recommend that definite steps be taken at this convention to pay in full all dues and per capita Jubilee Fund due the Luther League of America on or before November 1, 1917.

4.—Luther League Review. I recommend that a campaign be started to have the Review in every Luther League home.

I recommend that the Luther League of Ohio arrange for an edition of the Review of either 1,000 copies at $50 or an edition of 500 at $30.

DELEGATES AT THE OHIO STATE LUTHER LEAGUE CONVENTION

5.—We must develop our field more fully. The Luther League of Ohio instead of having 111 Leagues with 3,000 members should have three or four hundred Leagues with ten or fifteen thousand members. What are we going to do about this? Are we going at it the same as in the past? Leave it to the officers, chiefly the president, to work out. Can we not take some action to get more Leagues? True, the Leagues accessible to us are scarce. But can we not take steps to start things in the right direction to gain the ones we want? In these days of business men say "Nothing is impossible." Surely we can solve the problem of doubling or trebling our membership. We don't want the old fashioned membership campaign. We want real action and real lasting results. Let us give thought to this today. Let us try and act. I cannot make a recommendation on this that I am sure will work. I will leave it to the convention to work out a plan.

6.—Committees. You will note that I have practically appointed no committees this year. Why not? Well, to be perfectly frank, I could not see what good it would do to appoint committees this year. And again, I suppose you would like to know "why not?" Last year I appointed committees after the time-honored custom. I thought I picked all the best men and women in the State. Do you remember how much was done by these committees? There was very little in the reports, and when I faced the problem of appointing committees this year, when I looked over the names, I could not choose. I did not want to choose unless I could be sure of results, and so did not choose. Now then, what are you going to do about it? Your next president will have the same problem to face. Are you going to let the same condition continue? Do you think your next president can pick committees that will work? I do not think so, unless you, at this convention, arrange things in such a manner that he may know who is willing to take this, that or the other job. The only way for him to find out is for you to tell him what you have done, what you can do, and what you are willing to do, etc.

The idea of appointing committees at random is absolutely no good. It would be as bad as a man hiring workers at random.

As a suggestion, I recommend that every Leaguer who feels that he or she can handle the work of any particular committee, apply for the job by letter or in person to the next president, so that he may be assured of results.

Then in particular about committees. For years now we have had an executive committee of no account. It has been impossible to get a full committee meeting. All of the members are never at convention. I have written to the members time and again in the past two years, and very seldom had answers. When the question of convention came up this year and it was impossible to find a place, and convention time passed without convention, I waited in vain for any one of the committee to come through and ask why. Not one did. Convention evidently could have lapsed a year and our exeuctive committee would not have acted. What can we do? We have a clause in our constitution that provides for non-active members of the committee.

I recommend that a committee be appointed to confer with such members of the executive committee as are at present at this convention as to whether they wish to hold and fill their office. If not, that a new committee be elected by this convention, terms to be arranged to meet the requirements of the constitution.

7.—I wish to report that, owing to the fact that we could not secure a place in time for convention at the regular time this year, I had to postpone convention and send out a general circular letter asking for entertainment. As a result of requests, and an invitation for this particular time from Galion I made arrangements for convention. I say advisedly, because from former experiences I did not feel justified in trying to call an executive committee meeting. Convention was accordingly fixed for the 29th and 30th of August, at the First Lutheran Church, Galion, Ohio.

8.—In taking leave of my office, I wish to express my thanks to the Leaguers of the Luther League of Ohio for the work they have done, and for the cooperation they have given me. I particularly want to express thanks to our corresponding secretary, Miss Caines, whose help in the correspondence work proved of the greatest value in times when I was overloaded with other work. I want to thank our treasurer, Mr. Matthes, who has for so many years stood by us and guarded the treasury in spite of the fact that he, too, has been overwhelmed with business and was hardly able to spare time for this work. Then I want to thank Mr. James H. Barr, to whose untiring energy and devotion much of the success of this convention will be due, and to Rev. Kramer and the people of Galion, who are so splendidly entertaining the convention.

In conclusion. The work of my office as president has been a pleasure. There have been times when it did not seem so, but taken all in all, I shall be able to look back upon my term in office with pleasure, and you may rest assured that my best wishes and best efforts shall always be at the service of the Luther League of Ohio. Let us all put our shoulder to the wheel and progress so that we and our organization may make progress, and let us take such action at this convention that will assure us of the fact that this Quadri-Centennial Year will mark a milestone long to be remembered in the annals of the Luther League of Ohio.

The recommendations were received and referred to the proper committees.

The motion on records of last year, to the effect that every district president send a written report every three months to the State president, was reaffirmed and an addition made that the president of the State be authorized to compile a list of questions to be mailed district presidents, to be used in making out the above mentioned quarterly report.

The recommendation that all offerings per capita for Jubilee Fund due the Luther League of America be paid in full before December 31, 1917, was turned over to a

committee of three, said committee to see that same is collected and paid.

The recommendation that a campaign be made to have the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW in every Luther League home, was referred to the Extension Committee for definite and immediate action, results to be reported next year.

Recommendation that the Ohio State League arrange for an edition of 500 or 1,000 copies of the REVIEW, containing account of the Ohio State Convention, was discussed. Before the convention closed, the Ohio State body voted to authorize an order for 1,000 copies, same to be mailed to extension committee, said committee to mail same to various Leagues and Lutheran pastors of the different synods.

Motion was made and carried that district presidents assist the State president in the appointment of committees. By motion the former executive committee was declared vacant and appointment of new committee referred to the nominating committee, with instructions that said committee localize the members of this committee as much as possible. The president's report was accepted as a whole.

In connection with the president's report, the subject of the morning's program, "State League Work," was discussed.

The subject of the "District Luther League Work" was discussed by Mrs. F. G. Zerner, of Akron, Ohio, bringing out that:

Immediately following a district convention, the district president should inform State and national officials of the convention reports and names of newly elected officers.

At a district convention all committees should have definite places and time arranged ahead for their meetings, thus saving time and confusion. The efficiency committee, together with the extension committee, organizes new Leagues by first conducting a model meeting, and then aiding the new League as much as possible The statistical secretary can make an interesting report at the convention by making the report comparative between the various Leagues, as for instance, name the League with largest enrollment, with largest gain in membership, with largest number of REVIEWS taken, etc.

The roll call with payment of district, State and national dues at the morning session of convention, with this fact printed on the program, will assure better financial condition of the treasury.

The registration book should contain a place for addresses as well as names, thus making it valuable for information later on.

Each State is as strong as districts composing it, thus let us make each district in Ohio a strong efficient unit that Ohio may become still greater in Luther League work.

Fifth Session

The fifth session opened with devotional services in charge of Rev. Gaver, of Orrville, Ohio.

"Luther League Work and the Luther League of America," together with echoes of the National Luther League convention of 1916, was the subject of the discourse by Mr. Harry Hodges, general secretary of the Luther League of America, in which he said, in part:

I trust that our Luther Leagues are making use of the Quadricentennial Reading Course this year. If there is one time in our lives we should sacrifiee it is this year. Why are you Lutheran? Why is the Lutheran Church called into existence? We are preparing the way that you can do this by the Quadricentennial Reading Course. No Lutheran is a good Lutheran who does not read the book of Luther this year. This is a reading age. Tons of literature have been purchased. What are we reading and to what purpose? How are we to be intellectual Luther Leaguers unless we read Lutheran literature? Go home and start a reading circle in your local Leagues. Use Lutheran books. Topics are dealing with matters having bearing on quadri-centennial celebration. Find a scheme to get everybody interested in the topic. Topics are not for sermonizing or lecturing, but for discussion. Get everybody into the topic and they become more interesting.

LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW. We could not be intelligent Americans if we did not read the newspaper. We would not be part of the world. How are you going to be intelligent Luther Leaguers if you do not read the Lutheran literature and know what your Church is doing. I trust that there is going to be a LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW go into every Lutheran family. Fe would be glad to get any items of interest. A handbook is ready to go to the typesetter now as soon as sufficient money is secured to do so.

The Luther League, like the whole Lutheran Church, has not been maintained by the five-cent piece you drop in the collection plate on Sunday morning, has not kept the church going, but by the big men paying in large sums who have gone down into their pockets to the extent of $30,000 to make the Luther League of America possible. If the Luther League is worth maintaining it is worth every one of us getting under it.

Jubilee Fund. After the national convention at Toledo, at which time the idea of the Jubilee Fund was brought up, every State president, every district president and every State treasurer was sent a letter which suggsted to him three plans for collection of the fund on his territory. On December 31, 1916, $1,300 had been received of $7,500. States have not taken the matter up in the way they should. Do not take 25 cents out of the local treasury. We want you to take 25 cents out of your own pocket. Once in 400 years is not very much. It would be so little to you, but would mean so much to the Luther League of America.

How are we going to celebrate the Quadricentennial? We will not celebrate as we have jubilees heretofore. Let us celebrate in the twentieth century way. Realize that yesterday is only valuable because she is the mother of today. History is great, but destiny is greater. Destiny of the Lutheran Church lies in the young people. Train young people to be loyal Lutherans. Conserve our youth to take their places in this great Church, which in the providence of God was born into the world to lead.

The nominating committee submitted their report, which resulted in the election of the following officers: President, O. C. Rohde, Toledo, Ohio; vice-president, C. V. Grane, Canal Dover, Ohio; corresponding secretary, Marion R. Caines, Toledo, Ohio; recording secretary, Ethel Lutz, Canton, Ohio; statistical secretary, Mabel Holland, Toledo, Ohio; treasurer, Charles Matthes, Mansfield, Ohio.

Executive Committee: Rev. C. A. Portz, Berlin Center, Ohio, term of five years; Mrs. F. G. Zwerner, Akron, Ohio, term of four years; Grover F. Ilgen, Springfield, Ohio, term of three years; Glen H. Chisnell, Defiance, Ohio, term of two years; Charles

Leiser, New Comerstown, Ohio, term of one year.

The credentials committee reported 119 delegates and 35 visitors, a total of 154.

The report of the resolutions committee was as follows:

1. Resolved, that we express and pledge our allegiance to the Government of the United States in these days of stress and trial, calling the attention of our people to our confessional statement of duties to the civil government and recalling the honorable part which our ancestors took in both the Revolutionary and Civil wars.

That we greet the young men from our churches and Luther Leagues who have joined the army and navy or other branches of service, praying that the God of nations and Saviour of souls may never keep them.

That each Luther League and church endeavor to keep in touch with the many young men who have entered the service of our country, by correspondence and providing such comforts for the men and their families and friends, as possible.

That we request that the presidents of our Luther Leagues or pastors of our Lutheran churches send the names of all the men enlisted or drafted, with the place of training camp or other information, to the secretary of the Joint Inner Mission committee, who will send the names to a Lutheran pastor at each camp. This special secretary is Rev. G. H. Bechtold, 1333 Frankford Road, Philadelphia, Pa.

2. Resolved, that the State Luther League of Ohio in convention assembled, express its gratification at the movements for a United Lutheran Church, and recognize that the silent influence of the League in bringing our young people face to face and arousing a spirit of mutual love and fellowship, is beginning to bear its blessed fruit.

3. Resolved, that this convention authorize the president to appoint a superintendent of Junior League Work, who shall be a chairman of the Junior Work committee (see Con. Art. 9, Sec. 8), that this superintendent shall personally visit or write to every League and pastor of congregation connected with State League, concerning Junior Work and report annually to State convention.

That the State treasurer pay the expenses of this superintendent.

4. Whereas the State League has been enlarged by the addition of seven new Senior and one new Junior League, be it resolved that we express our delight and satisfaction at this extension and welcome these new Leagues into the fellowship of the kindred societies of the State and into an active co-operation in the work of the State League. We heartily commend that all congregations having young people's organizations of whatever name, make arrangements for admission into the District and State Leagues.

5. Resolved, that district presidents secure State statistic blanks, to be used by the district in securing statistics of local societies for their district conventions. Copies of same statistics should be mailed to State and national officers after the district convention, thus securing uniformity in statistics for district, State and national officers.

In cases where the districts are not well enough organized to take care of the above, the State statistical secretary must deal with locals to get their statistics.

6. Resolved, that we give a rising vote of thanks to the pastor, congregation and Luther League of First Lutheran Church, Galion, Ohio, for their kind reception and entertainment, and to the choir, soloists and organist for their excellent music.

7. Resolved, that the secretary send Mr. Rohde the greetings of this convention; also express our regrets at his inability to attend.

8. Resolved, that we are grateful to Mr. Hodges for his splendid service in presiding at the sessions in Mr. Rohde's absence; also we express our thanks to all who have taken part on the program and helped to make this convention a success.

Sixth Session

The closing session of the convention was opened with vesper services. The address of the evening was delivered by Rev. W. C. Hanning, of Detroit, Mich., on "The Life that Is Christ," who said in part:

There is one thing that we should keep in mind and that is that no church thrives upon the history of its past experience. The church that is thriving today is the church that reaches out and does something. We need men in the world today that say the same as Apostle Paul said: "For me to live is Christ." Burn it in your hearts. Take it back as a motto to remain with you the rest of your lives. We have work to do. Men and women, we are engaged in the greatest conflict the world has ever seen or probably will ever see. The nation is strong as it stands on the truth of God's eternal Word. The Church is looking for men. Men who will go through the tortures of Hell to do anything for the Lord Jesus Christ. A nation that is going to succeed is the one that stands by God's Word. stands by the truth and principles of the eternal Word. We need more divine enthusiasm in the Church. We need more men and women for foreign missions and the ministry. We have been sent to evangelize the world and nothing is impossible. "Ye shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free." We need more vision in the world. We need men and women who know what sin is. May God give us the vision of all the lost souls in this world today. Sacrifice if it need be that all men be saved for Christ. We need men who will be able to sacrifice and say "I will stay where you want me to stay; you can always depend upon me. I will do what you want me to do, I will be what you want me to be."

If I should call Napoleon he would say: "For me to live is to conquer." Let's be true. let's be loyal, let's be consistent to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The saddest sight in the world today is to see the soul that has gone from God, to see the man or woman who has sold his or her soul for a mess of pottage. The one thing that we need is not machinery, but men, men who will not become discouraged when trials and hardships come, but men of love and men of tears. Let me work today in the United States of America for my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

After a short closing talk by Mr. Hodges, the convention closed with the singing of the Luther League Rally Hymn.

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JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

What a gracious thing it was, in God's Providence, that Luther was allowed to find this key, which unlocks all the Scriptures, before he became a translator! He found it amid his inward struggles during his stay in the monastery. The fakirs sitting on beds of spikes to obtain peace, the poor widows of India measuring their length to a shrine to propitiate the gods, the mothers casting their children into the Ganges, millions who do penance and make gifts to obtain pardon for sin, would give all they possess for the assurance we have of justification through faith.

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THE UNIVERSAL PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

This means doing away with all the false distinctions between the clergy and the laity. During the Apostolic age every Christian was a missionary. The evangelization of the world dare never be limited to a select few. Whatever obligation belongs to one, belongs to all.

Tribute to the Flag

BY LOUIS C. HAY.

THAT flag presents the most beautiful combination of national colors that was ever unfurled since the beginning of time. That flag has carried more joy to more humble hearthstones than any insignia of government that ever floated in the sun-kissed breezes of Heaven.

The red in that flag is redder than the rising sun, when it bursts above the eastern horizon with a face of insufferable splendor, redder than the carnation flower whose colors are brewed in the workshops of Heaven, redder than the flush of joy that mantles the cheek of the young mother when she feels for the first time her first-born's breath. It typifies the blood that flowed in rivulets down the slopes of Bunker Hill, and stained the snows of Valley Forge, the warm heart-current that reddened the sod at Gettysburg, and consecrated the apple blossoms at Appomattox.

The white in that flag is whiter than the driven snow, when it falls uncontaminated from the matchless hand of God, whiter than the calla lily that blossoms beneath the fostering care of the loving housewife, whiter than the sacred veil that envelops the blushing bride, whiter than the silver beam that shoots from the evening star. It typifies the purity of the patriotism that animated American manhood on a thousand blood-bought fields and a hundred crimson seas.

The blue in that flag, oh, the blue in that flag! is bluer than the arched dome of Heaven, bluer than the modest violet that blossoms in the wooded glen on the sunny side of the old log, bluer than the mellow radiance that flashes in a woman's eye. It typifies the sacrifice of the mother who laid her stalwart first-born on the altar of his country and kneeling at his vacant chair prays to God to comfort her aching heart, then seizes the sword that has fallen from the nerveless hand of the dead hero, buckles it to the waist of her stripling son and bids him go forth and conquer or never return.

Flag of the free heart's hope and home,
By Angel hands to valor given;
Thy stars have lit the welkin dome,
And all thy hues were born in Heaven.

Forever float that standard sheet;
Where breathes the foe but falls before us,
With Freedom's soil beneath our feet,
And Freedom's banner streaming o'er us!

PENNSYLVANIA CONVENTION

(*Continued from page* 14.)

heavy that he could not pull it any further, and he went and opened the door of the church, and what was his surprise to see contentedly and complacently seated within the church his whole congregation, enjoying the ride which their pastor was giving them. No wonder the burden was too great for him.

At the close of this inspiring address a hymn was sung by the assembled Luther Leaguers and thus closed the Twenty-fourth Annual Convention of the Luther League of Pennsylvania, one of the largest, best and most inspiring in its history, and it is to be hoped that the delegates will carry back with them and disseminate the enthusiasm and the many helpful things they heard at this great convention, to the Leaguers who were not fortunate enough to be there.

SELENIUM

Stars that are so faint that they not only cannot be seen with a telescope, but cannot be detected by long exposure of a very sensitive photographic plate in a telescope, are even then not beyond the range of discovery. A noted scientist is working on a device that will record the existence of distant suns that never yet have been detected. By means of selenium, a metal the electrical resistance of which varies with the amount of light thrown on it, he has made an instrument that will show a tiny current of electricity when the light of a star is thrown in it. So delicate is it that he expects it will show enough current to be recorded when it is focused on some little spot in the sky where no star is now known, if, as a matter of fact, there is some faint star there.—*The Lutheran.*

THE PEOPLE'S PART IN PUBLIC WORSHIP

What a priceless privilege it is that we have of taking part in public worship. Now, practically all Protestants have some form of service in which all the people join. In Old Testament days even the High Priest himself could go into the Holy of Holies only once a year. We have access every Sunday.

Luther League of Illinois

Twenty-third Annual Convention at Morris, September 21, 22 and 23

BY MRS. MINNIE L. BOEDECKER.

Far from the crowded streets,
Midst birds and trees and flowers,
Life is a song whose stanzas
Are happy sunlit hours.

THESE few lines constantly came to my mind at the twenty-third Annual Convention of the Luther League of Illinois, which was held at Hauge Norwegian Lutheran Church near Morris, in one of the finest farming districts in the State. To those from the city, the opportunity of spending a few days on "the farm" was indeed a rare treat. The kind hospitality of the farmers and the splendid convention held in their midst will long be remembered.

We were extremely fortunate in having with us three officers of the Luther League of America, viz.: Mr. C. T. A. Anderson, of Chicago, national president; Mr. Harry Hodges, of Philadelphia, General Secretary, and Rev. Luther M. Kuhns, of Omaha, Literature Secretary.

The Convention was opened on Friday evening, September 21, with devotional services. A cordial welcome was extended to us by Rev. T. Aarestad, pastor loci, Mr. C. T. A. Anderson, Chairman of the Executive Committee, made a happy response. The Morris Quartette rendered a selection, and Rev. Lars Harrisville of Chicago delivered the opening address on "A Believing Church." Rev. Harrisville said in part:

A believing Church is a Church which receives the Word of God. We cannot be a believing Church unless we accept the whole Bible as the Word of God. We as Lutherans say we believe the Bible, yet how do we use it? What is the actual condition among the Lutheran people? Do we always use it as a guide, and as a daily food? I wonder how many of you read your Bibles every day—how many families are there in the different congregations that gather with their children around the Word of God?

A believing Church is one that believes in the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Holy Supper. We in the Lutheran Church believe that when we bring a child to church for baptism that his name is written in heaven. What a blessed thought! We believe that that child does not only receive a name, but that it becomes a child of God.

Now relative to the Holy Supper—how often do we go to the Lord's table? The early Christians communed just as often as they could, but now the average member of a church goes to communion only once or twice a year. No wonder that the spiritual life of our congregations is not what it ought to be! A believing Church is a Church which receives Jesus Christ as the only foundation of life and eternal salvation.

A believing Church is a Church that is active in faith, hope and charity, and "the greatest of these is charity—love."

Now friends, we believe God's Word, we believe in the Sacraments, we believe in Jesus Christ, but what effect has that made upon our lives, what effect has it made upon our hearts? Unless our faith is active in love, it is a dead faith. Now where can we show our love? The field is great. There is a great field in the foreign countries, in the inner missions, in Christian institutions. It is a believing Church's duty to help in these fields.

I trust that we who are assembled here at this convention may be a believing people and may demonstrate that faith, and believe in a love to Christ and a love to our fellow man.

The following Credentials Committee was appointed: Mr. Henry Sampson, R. 6, Conklin Road, Morris, Ill.; Mrs. Minnie L. Boedecker, 3509 Wrightwood Ave., Chicago, Ill.; Miss Eleanore Stange, 723 N. Spaulding Ave.

Second Session

The second session was held Saturday morning. After devotional services a business session was held.

The Convention theme was "A Conquering Church." Mr. August N. Brissman of Moline, a former State President, read a paper on "A Seeing Church." Excerpts from the paper follow:

That church alone, which, through prayer and spiritual communion, receives a true vision of her task, will succeed in fulfilling the mission which God has destined His church on earth to perform. Let us listen to Christ's words as recorded by St. Matthew: "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you." Here we have a direct statement of the fundamental task which Christ set for His church. Happy is the church which receives a true vision of that task, namely, to save souls from sin and teach them how to so live that they may inherit eternal life. All other tasks are but divisions of and subservient to this one great task, and that church is a complete failure which fails in this one fundamental, no matter how successful she may appear to be from other points of view. This one main great task of Christ's church on earth is or ought to be self-evident to all thinking Christians, but we are loath to state that in some cases one is almost compelled to think that the same has been lost sight of almost entirely. Let us pray and hope that this great vision may always remain fresh and vivid within our Lutheran Church.

Let us together try to get a vision of some of the subsidiary tasks which today confront our Lutheran Church. In the first place we need more unity and co-operation. Think what a mighty power a fully united Lutheran Church in America could be. And we can rejoice together today in the thought that this vision has come among us. May we all pray to God that the proposed union of three of our large bodies may be speedily and successfully consummated. And also let us pray that God may work upon other Lutheran bodies so that before very long we may have but one United Lutheran Church of America. The greatest success in her fundamental task will come to our Lutheran Church only through unified effort. May the Luther League of America and its various subdivisions be a mighty factor in such unification. The vision has come, the work has been started under God's guidance and with His power, and no human agency can stop it. Happy is he who is instrumental in its progress.

Another task of our Lutheran Church is the re-

gaining of its own people who have gone astray. There are hundreds of men and women, young and old, among us who are true sons and daughters of the Lutheran Church, but for some reason or other have left the fold and all religious connections. We need to reclaim such people, first and foremost in order to save their souls, but we also need them to help in furthering our work.

Our local congregation has been blessed with such a vision, and we have been working and planning for a confirmants' reunion on a large scale. A good-sized committee has been at work, and the aim which we set for ourselves was to learn the present location and situation of every living confirmant of our congregation and extend to each one an invitation to attend this reunion, and also through personal solicitation to try to reinterest such as have gone astray.

Another task of our Church, somewhat related to the preceding one, is the retaining of its young people. We need to put forth a special effort to hold the interest of our confirmants in the years immediately succeeding their confirmation. A restlessness is liable to pervade this period which may result in their entire loss to God and the Church. Therefore, we need a vision as to how to retain our hold on our young people at this critical period.

As I see it, one of the future tasks of our Church is to hold forth with greater emphasis the teachings of the Bible as to the healing and welfare of the body. Although the prime object of the Church is the saving of God's children for the hereafter, nevertheless we must remember that Christ said: "Seek ye first God's Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." The vicarious atonement of Jesus Christ is efficacious for the body as well as for the soul. In order to save more souls for the hereafter, we must look more after the welfare of their bodies in the here. We must not expect our people to be obliged to depend on worldly organizations and powers for their present welfare and then come to us for spiritual salvation. The chances are that they may remain satisfied with this world's good alone and never come to us. Let us not forget that God has said that He is the one who forgives all our sins and heals all our diseases.

The following splendid report was presented by the President, Mr. J. Alex Nelson:

Your executive committee has chosen for the theme of this convention "A Conquering Church." Our convention theme, discussed in its many phases, should instill in us a greater love and activity for our Captain Jesus Christ and His Church.

The work and progress of the League will be brought before you by the reports of your officers and committees, but as your president I wish to make the following suggestions and recommendations:

1st. As this is the year of the 400th Anniversary of the Reformation and will be largely celebrated by all our Lutheran bodies in America, I would recommend that each local League would suitably commemorate this important event with a special program during the Anniversary Week or at a meeting nearest the Reformation dates, and that at this time a collection be taken up for the purpose of helping the finances of the State League, that its work may be largely extended.

2nd. From year to year we have indorsed the Luther League literature and reading course, but no special effort has been made to increase the subscriptions to the REVIEW and Topics or to introduce the reading course into the local Leagues.

I would recommend that a literature committee be appointed who should be supplied with circulars, pamphlets and other material for the purpose of advertising and placing before the members this valuable literature, thus endeavoring to secure a larger subscription for the REVIEW, Topics, and Reading Course. And I also recommend that advance subscriptions be sent in to aid in securing the publication of the Luther League Handbook.

If it were possible it would be a good plan to send out a small copy of current events and interesting League news at least bi-monthly to the country Leagues so that they may know what is going on in the State League and thereby feel that they are a part of the great organization of the Young People of our Church.

This could be done by a mimeograph letter or some other suitable way and could be taken care of by this literature committee. I do not think the cost would be great, and if each League would contribute 10 cents a month I believe it would cover the cost. One copy could be sent to each League as a letter to be read by the secretary at the regular meetings.

3rd. This year two of our former Luther Leaguers and officers have returned from the mission fields on a furlough. Namely, Miss Theresa Peterson, who is a missionary for Hauges Synod in China, and Miss May C. Melander, who is connected with the Augustana Synod in the mission work in Porto Rico. We regret that they are unable to be with us at this convention, but Miss Peterson leaves for her post of duty in China on September 27. Her steamer sails from Vancouver on that date, and Miss Melander has a previous engagement. I would suggest that a letter of greeting be sent them, and that in the case of Miss Peterson it be sent to reach her at the boat in Vancouver before it leaves.

4th. Not much extension work has been tried in the State during the past year. However, we expect to welcome to the League at this convention the Luther League of Zion Church at Trivoli, Ill.

I would suggest that the State be divided into three districts for extension work, viz.: Northern, Central and Southern districts, and that a chairman for each district be appointed to look after this work. Miss Soderholm, our ex-secretary, has sent out letters and literature for the purpose of beginning this work. I would recommend for your consideration the Junior League work.

5th. It has been the custom in past years to give each new League a membership certificate. If there are any Leagues who have not received a certificate they may be had from the recording secretary. I would suggest that they have them framed and hung up in their Luther League room.

6th. At the national convention held in Toledo, Ohio, a resolution was passed calling upon the Luther League to raise a Jubilee Fund for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the League. A call for 25 cents per member has been made and should be turned in as soon as possible. The urgency of this will be clear to you if you will bear in mind the fact that no organization can exist without funds to carry on its work, and that the Luther League of America is considerably in debt to its secretaries for the past two years. In this connection the dues to the State League should not be forgotten. I would request all delinquents to send in their dues to the treasurer as soon as possible.

The past year has been one of important events in our Lutheran Zion. In the month of June three of the Norwegian Synods united and will be known as the "Norwegian Lutheran Church of America." In the same month the General Synod of America voted to unite with the General Council and the United Synod of the South. This merger will probably take place in the near future. We, as Luther Leaguers, rejoice to see this day and pray God that He may hasten the day when we shall be one united Church in America. We feel that the Luther League has wielded an influence in this connection.

Your president has visited and spoken at several Leagues in Chicago during the past year. He has found all prosperous and enthusiastic. In their meetings there was nothing sensational. No standing up to be counted, but always the earnest, loving persuasion to be a Christian.

Since our last convention our beloved country has been plunged into war. Many of our young Lutheran men have already heeded our country's call and have enlisted, many others will soon be called upon to follow. We who are at home should do all we can for them. Some Leagues are giving their members who are called to the front, pocket Bibles and Testaments; others are arranging to keep in touch with them through correspondence. All is commendable and I would suggest further that each League send what magazines and books they can to the Y. M. C. A. camps connected with the army. Above all, may we always remember them in our prayers to God, that He may bless and keep them steadfast in the faith.

I feel that in this crisis we should solemnly endorse the action of our Government and pledge our wholehearted service to the President of the United States in pushing the war to a successful conclusion.

I would recommend that each League keep a roll of honor of all members of the Lutheran Church

who have been called to the colors and that this roll be posted in the Luther League rooms. The roll should contain the name, branch of service, regiment and company, army or navy.

I also would recommend for your consideration the work of the Red Cross Society.

In the past year resolutions have been drawn and passed at each convention, but few have been carried out, largely for lack of funds. If the work is to be properly carried on the committees should carefully carry out the will of the convention as brought forth in the resolutions adopted and the members should be prompt in doing their share in supporting the work. When a League is prosperous and doing things you will find that it has competent officers, and that every detail of the work and obligations is taken care of. But the officers cannot do efficient work unless supported by every member.

In closing my term of office, I wish to thank the officers and committees for their faithful services during the year, and I trust that your new officers may receive the full, hearty and undivided support in the coming year that the League may go on and prosper better than ever. May God's richest blessings be with you all.

This report and all others were referred to the committee on resolutions.

In the absence of Miss Elizabeth Soderholm, Executive Secretary, her report was read by Miss Hulda Miller. Miss Soderholm was unable to make a complete report as many Leagues had not sent in their statistical reports. Letters were sent to many pastors in the States in an endeavor to find out how many Leagues are not affiliated with the State League and also with a view to securing the information of prospective Leagues for the work of the Extension Committee.

Mr. C. T. A. Anderson, Chairman of the Executive Committee, presented the following report:

Your executive committee held a meeting on February 22 in Chicago, together with the officers of the Chicago District Luther League, for the purpose of increasing our membership in the State organization and to "boost" our finances, especially the Jubilee Fund for the Luther League of America.

A meeting was held also in Chicago, August 19, to arrange for the official call and program for this convention.

We would suggest to the delegates that if they have a place for the 1918 convention they kindly extend the invitation as soon as possible, as this would make it easier to arrange the program and details of the convention.

We also would suggest to the delegates to ascertain from the treasurer whether the dues of their societies have been paid, and, if not, to take back to their Leagues a recommendation for a remittance as soon as possible. We also recommend that the various Leagues send in the 25 cents per member for the "Jubilee Fund" as soon as possible to our State treasurer so that it may be remitted to the national treasurer.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand of $503.06. The books were referred to the Auditing Committee.

The President appointed the following committees:

Resolutions—Rev. W. A. Kiser, 2408 S. 50th Ave., Cicero, Ill.; Rev. F. W. Lindtke, Aurora, Ill.; Mr. Axtel Olson, 521 N. LeClaire Ave.; Miss Lena Ratledge, 1316 S. 5th Ave., Maywood, Ill.; Miss Dorothy Knaack, 348 Lake Ave., Woodstock, Ill.

Nominating—Mr. August N. Brissman, 837 19th Ave., Moline, Ill.; Mr. Wm. G. Ewert, 2708 Haddon Ave.; Miss Josephine Ostrem, Morris, Ill.

Auditing—Mr. Walter Johnson, 1117 N. Hamlin Ave., Chicago, Ill.; Mr. Silas Hagen, Morris, Ill.; Mr. Harry S. Hansen, 2329 N. Monticello Ave., Chicago, Ill.

MR. NELSON, REV. KUHNS AND MR. ANDERSON TAKEN AT THE CONVENTION LUNCHEON.

Invitations to this Convention had been extended to Miss Theresa Peterson and Miss May C. Melander, former members of the Luther League, now missionaries in the foreign field, who were visiting this country on a furlough, but neither could be present at the Convention. Letters were sent by the Convention to each one of these ladies.

Rev. Luther M. Kuhns made a short talk urging the use of the Topics, the reading of the REVIEW and the study of the Luther League Reading Course. He further urged all Leaguers to send in the news. He said he would be willing to send the REVIEW gratis to the various Army Camps, where our soldiers are in training.

A suggestion was made that 500 copies of the REVIEW containing the Illinois

J. A. NELSON, PRESIDENT.

State Convention report be ordered and used by the extension committee. Mr. Wm. G. Ewert, of Chicago, was appointed to solicit subscriptions to the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW.

After the closing services, the delegates and visitors enjoyed a delicious luncheon served on the lawn by the ladies of the church.

Third Session

The third session was held Saturday afternoon, beginning with devotional services.

An interesting efficiency conference was conducted by Mr. Harry Hodges, general secretary of the Luther League of America. The following is a brief résumé:

Duties of a local president: The president ought to be the engineer; he ought to have the proper vision and faith in the work of his organization; he ought to have a sense of proportion, so organizing the work that no line of activity is over or under emphasized. He ought to arrange for the co-operation of all his committees; he ought to remember that it is better to appoint three different persons on three committees, than one person on three committees.

Vice-president: The vice-president ought to be the fireman, ever helping the president; he ought to inspire each committee chairman to contribute his best service. Let the vice-president be in training for the office of president. He should be in attendance at all meetings.

Recording secretary: The recording secretary ought to know the officers in order to reflect their judgment; ought to know the offices in order to properly regard the work; should know the value of records in order to keep accurate minutes. Requisites: A genius for exactness, promptness, alertness, accuracy and common sense.

Corresponding secretary: This person ought to be personally in touch with the field, ought to know about all the activities of the church; a person who is enthusiastic for the cause; a person who knows that the non-answering of letters is both discourteous and unchristian.

Treasurer: He ought to be in touch with the activities of the church at large, know what money is needed; he should be in touch with the higher bodies, the national, state and district. He ought to have ability as an accountant.

Committees: The president ought to be ex-officio a member of every committee. All committees ought to work in harmony; plan their work and work their plan; they ought to make written reports at every meeting so the secretary can file them.

Executive committee: The business of this committee is to plan the work of the League; it ought to relieve the meetings of much business; it must be loyal to the pastor; every organization is a part of the congregation, and the pastor is the head of the congregation. This committee should support the president.

Devotional committee: In order to have an ideal devotional committee, it must be composed of persons of personal devotion; this committee should provide leaders and substitutes, so that the League would on no occasion be without a leader. The TOPICS ought to be used.

Membership committee: One of the first duties of the membership committee is to invite strangers to the meetings of your League. The membership committee ought to welcome newcomers. It would be a good idea for the pastor to turn over the names of young people moving into the parish. They ought to seek for new members and look up the absent. In this connection a suggestion was made that parents of members become corresponding members paying $1 per year, and that the young people entertain them occasionally.

MEETINGS.

Devotional meetings: The object of devotional meetings is to increase knowledge and consecration; the topic should be taken care of by three people, an essayist, speaker, and some one to start the discussion. All should enter the discussion. Three essentials to a live meeting are:

A live leader;
Preparation;
Execution.

Business meetings: Let there be parliamentary order in all our meetings. Have intelligent officers and have all members speak to the point.

Social meetings: They should have features in which all can participate. Let's come in dress suited to the occasion, not dressed as going to a drawing room reception. Let's have refreshments when we have them that are not extravagant. I think the social committee at the beginning of the season should see what the refreshments are to be and that no one should be privileged to go beyond what the social committee decrees. Have some good musical and literary numbers on the program. Do not have your program so stuffed with features that you do not have time for social intercourse.

The following is a standard of efficiency for a local League:

Average attendance at meetings of at least one-half of the enrollment.

Punctual attendance.

Have at least the following officers present: President, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

Have at least the following committees present: devotional, membership, and social.

Meetings should begin on time.

Leaders must be present and prepared.

At least once every quarter each active member taking part in the meeting.

Daily reading of the Bible by all the members.

The auditing committee reported that the treasurer's books were correct.

The resolutions committee returned the following splendid set of resolutions:

1. We recommend that each local League should suitably celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Reformation with a special program as near the 31st of October as practical.

2. We recommend that each local society appoint a member who will secure subscriptions to the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW and Luther League Hand Book, and that the State Luther League of Illinois purchase 500 copies of the Convention Number of the REVIEW, at $30, for distribution by the extension committee.

3. We recommend that the Leagues use the Jubilee Reading Course; also that they send in news items promptly to the LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW.

4. We recommend that the State be divided into three districts for extension work; namely, the northern, southern and central districts, and a chairman be appointed to look after this work, giving due stress to Junior League work.

5. We recommend that the societies delinquent in paying State dues and Jubilee Fund be notified by the treasurer and be urged to respond, so that the State and national work be carried on properly.

6. We recommend that each League keep an honor roll of all members of the Church who have joined the services of our Government and that wherever possible a Bible be funished by the Luther League; and we further endorse the proclamation of President Wilson referring to the reading of the Scriptures, and solemnly pledge our loyalty to our Government in this time of national crisis.

7. We further endorse the work of the Red Cross and hope the individual Leagues will take proper action in assisting in the same.

8. The convention assembled is deeply gratified to hear from its former members, Miss Theresa Peterson and Miss May C. Melander, and we trust that our heavenly Father will strengthen them in their work in the foreign fields, and we further pray that many more would join in this very necessary work in the uplifting of mankind.

9. We recommend that a rising vote of thanks be given to the officers who have served us so faithfully this past year, and we recommend that a rising vote of thanks be given to the members and friends of Hauge Church for their kind hospitality and to the local pastor and those who have assisted in making the program a success.

10. As part of the pioneer organization which created sentiment for Lutheran union we are deeply

grateful for the merger of the Norwegian Synods and that which is knocking at the door of the General Council, General Synod and the United Synod of the South, and we pray that in the near future there shall be a United Lutheran Church of America.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President—J. Alex. Nelson, 4917 Fletcher St., Chicago, Ill.

Recording Secretary—Miss Hulda Miller, 1649 N. Richmond St., Chicago, Ill.

Corresponding Secretary—Miss Elizabeth Suderholm, 2 E. Walnut St., Harrisburg, Ill.

Treasurer—Mr. Silas Hagan, Morris, Ill.

Ex-Committee—Mr. Sidney Nelson, Morris, Ill.

Fourth Session

The Saturday evening session was in the form of a reception. A good program by local as well as visiting talent was well rendered and enoyed by all.

At this session the Credentials Committee reported 64 delegates present, 5 pastors and a great many visitors. The Zion Luther League of Trivoli, was admitted to membership in the State League.

Fifth Session

Regular morning services were held at this session on Sunday morning, with an inspiring sermon preached by Rev. T. Aarestad of Morris. The Rally Session on Sunday afternoon was a record session. The attendance was exceedingly large and there was scarcely standing room left. Good music was furnished by the Morris Quartette and the Helmar Choir; Rev. J. Allen Leas of Chicago, in his usual brilliant manner, delivered an address on "A Serving Church." It is impossible to give a synopsis of either of these excellent sermons as we are without either the notes or manuscript of them.

A large number of delegates remained until Monday to take a trip to Starved Rock State Park, an historic place abounding in beautiful scenery. We were indeed sorry to feel that "it was over," but the benefits derived from the Convention will long be in evidence, and without doubt all those present took back to their local Leagues the enthusiasm instilled in them while at Morris.

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Our Church's Service in War Times

BY E. F. BACHMANN, D.D., AND F. H. KNUBEL, D.D.

THE need of a distinct service on the part of the Church in these days of war has impressed many hearts. Earnest resolutions have been adopted and wise initiatives undertaken in various quarters. We do not know of all such steps, but some of them deserve additional attention.

The joint committee of three general Lutheran bodies which prepared the new Common Service Book and Hymnal has now provided a special Army and Navy Service Book. It is about to be issued by the publication houses. The contents include a form of service, well selected hymns (with the music) and prayers, Scripture selections and suggested readings, a form for the burial of the dead, etc. It will be sold at a surprisingly low figure and should be placed in the hands of every man in the national service. Announcement that it is ready should be watched for.

The Pennsylvania Ministerium appointed an active committee to plan for service covering all camps and congregations within its territory. The work has been carried on effectively, and its influence has been felt by unknown numbers of young men who needed just such service.

Doubtless much else has been done. Individual congregations are in hundreds of instances aiming to help their own young men and, when near an encampment, the Lutherans who are there.

With it all the need of service is very far from being covered. Thus it was that last May an emergency organization was effected, when our country's entrance into this war demanded prompt action, in order to secure for our Church a position of advantage in ministering to our soldiers and sailors enlisted from all parts of our Church and country. The organization was undertaken as a temporary arrangement for this special purpose at a meeting of Inner Mission representatives. It was realized that the work is peculiarly Inner Mission work, and that our Inner Mission interests dare not neglect it. The committee consisted of men already serving on official Inner Mission boards or committees of three general bodies. They were Revs. E. F. Bachmann, D.D., G. H. Bechtold, W. Freas, J. F. Kitzmeyer, F. H. Knubel, D.D.,

G. W. Sandt, D.D., M. G. Scherer, D.D. (Pressure of duties necessitated that Dr. Sandt ask Rev. C. E. Krumbholz to act for him.) For the lack of any better suggestion the temporary organization was called the United Inner Mission. It is recognized by the Federal Council of Churches, which is practically the only organization through which the Federal Government is dealing with the Protestant denominations. (Thus close touch has been kept with the Government's plans and regulations for religious work. Likewise valuable information has been gained for effective operations.) Various synods and the only General Body of Lutherans which has met since the organization was formed have heartily sanctioned and. materially supported the committee In order that it shall be more fully representative, steps are being taken to add official members of other general bodies. In such a work the mothers and all women of the Church are naturally interested. Their direct help has been secured by the appointment as their representatives of Mrs. C. L. Fry, Mrs. M. S. Waters and Mrs. Chester Buck.

The one great and common purpose of this Inner Mission work is to provide to the fullest extent possible for the spiritual needs of our men while they are in a service which puts body and soul to the severest tests. With the National Guard sent to training camps and the drafted men called to the colors, not less than 25,000 Lutheran young men are being removed from their homes and congregations. They are entering upon new temptations and new dangers. They must be followed with the spiritual care of our Church. Our people at home could afford to be without religious services and pastoral care easier than these at the camps and on the firing line. We dare not flinch nor take a narrow view of the task. No selfish interest must be permitted to influence our support of the endeavor.

How can the work be done? There are two methods, both of which must be followed. One may be called the long-distant method, though it has heart closeness. The other is local and direct. The aim of the former is to work through the pastors, congregations and home from which the men go. Constant touch must be preserved between the two and loving endeavor followed. The second method operates through Christian agencies close to the men wherever they are, their chaplains, congregations near the camps, specially sent representatives of the Church where no congregation is near and where chaplain service is insufficient.

The United Inner Mission has so far developed chiefly the former method. A booklet, "Christian Service in War Times," was prepared and mailed (thus far) to every pastor in four general bodies (General Council, General Synod, German Iowa, United Synod in the South). It will be sent free to any applicant. It is filled with suggestions of service to pastors, congregations and homes. "War Service Message for the Day" has been published. Fifty pastors have prepared a brief form of service with a meditation for private devotion. The Church Year is covered, and one may be mailed weekly. The committee will mail it thus to any address here or in Europe for sixty cents per year; in bulk to a congregation or home, twenty cents. "A Soldier's Catechism" has been issued at five cents; Scripture passages to fit practically all circumstances of a soldier's life. "A Letter to Men in the Service of Our Country," reminding them that behind them is a praying host of Christians; free in any quantity needed. "A Message to the Church," expressing the Christian attitude of all our people in war times; free in any quantity needed. "Suggested Bible Readings," a gummed leaflet, to be placed in Testaments; gratis. From other sources, New Testaments for the pocket can be supplied from twelve cents up; Scripture portions at three cents; "Soldier's Text Book," a daily thought covering a month, at five cents. Sermons for nurses and for medical men are in preparation by the committee. Once more attention is asked here to the Army and Navy Service Book which our publication boards will issue. Naturally the committee will be pleased to furnish it. Plans are under way whereby the women of the Church may send knitted articles, comfort kits, etc., to the office of the committee, for supply to Lutheran men in the service. Pastors are asked to furnish lists of their men who are away with addresses; such names will be sent to pastors and chaplains at the given place. Preparations are being made to furnish information to any home or pastor concerning missing individuals, in case many of our troops should be sent abroad.

Plans are now being developed to cover the second method of operation mentioned above. The men must also be influenced directly in their camps. The time has arrived for large plans. A careful study based on first hand information has revealed the following requirements as a reasonable minimum to meet immediate needs.

A dozen or more Lutheran chaplains are

in the Regular Army. They are absolutely unequipped, nothing being furnished by the Government. They are forbidden to solicit for this, even from intimate friends. A chaplain will need a "service tent" as the center of his activities. There the men may also meet socially, find the Church papers and other reading matter, write letters upon provided stationery, and consult the chaplain. He will need communion vessels and the elements, and also a good supply of the Army and Navy Service Book mentioned above. There is much beside all this which our Church should furnish him in his helplessness.

There are various special camps (e. g., Reserve Officers' Training Camps) where the Government provides no chaplains at all. There are also the interned Germans, for whom no spiritual provision is made. By arrangement of the Federal Council of Churches with the Government, the former will make assignments for such care, and the assignments will be apportioned among the denominations. The expense will be upon the denominations. One or more of the special camps, and practically all of the internment camps for aliens, will probably be assigned to our Church. At least four special chaplains must therefore be assigned, supported and equipped by us.

Churches which are near the almost endless number of camps must be assisted with suggestions and materially, in the aim to serve our men. As the camps are usually not near large cities, the nearest congregations are generally small, sometimes missions. Occasionally they will need a shack or tent with equipment near the ground. This would be a Lutheran headquarters. In special instances the pastor may need an assistant, perhaps not necessarily a clergyman. There are, furthermore, camps to which the men are going from our important Lutheran States and near which there is no Lutheran congregation at all. It would seem imperative that a man be sent especially to each of them. There may even develop the necessity to send men abroad, as troops are moved there.

Concerning the above matters the United Inner Mission has gathered and is gathering definite and complete information. The day seems here, however, when a special representative must travel from camp to camp, giving service as he can, and providing the committee with final information upon which to base judgments and to expend funds economically. The committee has itself made such visits at camps as have been possible.

Consideration of the above facts will prevent any surprise at the statement that a conservative budget showing only immediate needs of $35,000 has been prepared. Other denominations have launched campaigns for sums even ten times as large. The Roman Church is seeking a million. Should the war continue our Church will also need much more. It is just the present need, as the thousands of men are leaving home, which has been calculated. Our Church *must* undertake the spiritual care of her sons. Our boys must return to us as Christian men or meet us in glory before the throne of God.

The committee's office is at 1333 Frankford avenue, Philadelphia, where the secretary (Rev. G. H. Bechtold) should be addressed for all literature or for information. Contributions should be sent to the treasurer, Rev. W. Freas, 162 Mercer street, Jersey City, N. J.

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WHY SHOULD WE ALWAYS ATTEND CHURCH?

1. It helps ourselves. The church services give vigor to the best thoughts and purposes, strengthen our integrity, develop and solidify right character, and feed the moral and religious part of our nature. We cannot afford to lose those sweetening and strengthening influences for a single week.

2. It helps the minister. Nothing is more disheartening to a minister than simple neglect. What sense is there in preparing a message for those who do not come to hear it? How can he preach with vigor to empty pews? The dullness of any service is often to be laid to the account of the absent ones.

3. A church lives on the devotion of its friends. Nowhere is this devotion so fully shown, so quickly felt, or so plainly seen, as in the attendance on the Lord's Day. Every one in their place, and the church rejoices in a consciousness of strength and vitality and goes forth with zeal and power to its appointed work. With half the seats vacant, there comes depression, and the church sinks into inaction. A live church helps the community. The moral tone of any community depends largely on its churches. If church goers become negligent, the outside community will not go to church. The example of every neglecter of the Lord's Day worship is so far an obstruction placed before the door of the church to keep others away. If the friends of the church will attend, strangers will be sure to do so.—*Church Union.*

General Secretary's Letter

DEAR FRIENDS:

As this letter reaches you, we will be in the midst of the celebration of the Quadri-Centennial of the Reformation. As we celebrate, let us keep ever before us the slogan: "To celebrate the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century and hasten the transformation of the Twentieth Century," for "He who crowns the dying ages, bids us serve the great today." Yesterday is only valuable because it is the mother of today. History is great, but destiny is greater, and the destiny of the Lutheran Church is in the hands of her young people, the Luther League. I commend for careful perusal and consideration the letter sent to all our local presidents by the Joint Committee on Celebration.

Since my last letter one of the very good friends of the League, the Rev. C. Armand Miller, D. D., has entered into everlasting life. Dr. Miller will be gratefully remembered by our Leaguers for his very devotional treatment of our Lenten Topics for the past few years. "He being dead yet speaketh."

You will be glad to learn that our treasurer, Mr. Banker, and our former president, Mr. Stoever, have sufficiently recovered to again appear at their desks. Our recent president, Mr. Miller, has been ill and is recovering slowly.

In my travels I find that quite a number of our League men have enlisted in their country's service. I think it would be a splendid thing to place an Honor Roll each month in the REVIEW, and would suggest that each League send to me the names and stations of any of their members enlisted.

The York District of the Pennsylvania League conducted recently a very successful "Luther League Night." They selected a certain Sunday evening and sent a representative from the district to visit every local connected with it. Each representative spoke upon the same subject: "Cooperation Among Our Lutheran Young People." The local press gave the affair much publicity.

This district conducts a "Speakers' and Entertainment Bureau." It has a list of all the speakers and entertainers among its constituents. Any local League desiring a speaker on a Luther League subject can apply to the bureau and have a speaker sent at the expense of the district. If an entertainer is desired for a social meeting, he will be sent at the expense of the League making application.

The president of the Philadelphia District has recently held his annual meeting with his committees and local League presidents. This is a custom in Philadelphia that might well be followed elsewhere. In October the officers and committees of the district and the presidents of all locals in the districts meet together at dinner in one of the churches and plan the work for the winter. Thus no local is ignorant of the district's plans.

The Luther League of New Jersey held one of the best conventions in its history at Asbury Park. Your general secretary was privileged to conduct a conference.

I was privileged to attend a session of the convention of the Pennsylvania State Sabbath School Association at Pittsburgh. Dr. S. P. Cadman, of Brooklyn, spoke on the subject "The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century." In speaking of Germany, he said we should not allow our feelings to interfere with our Christian charity. He referred to the Germany of Beethoven, of Goethe, and of Schiller, and said the good of Germany will reassert itself. His address was an inspiration, but I was privileged to have a greater inspiration, for I met Harry Brown. Who is Harry Brown, you are doubtless wondering. He has a very ordinary name, but is a very extraordinary man. He was a crook, burglar and safe breaker. One day the light of God's Spirit streamed into his heart, and he became a converted man. At the time there was to his credit in the bank $30,000 which he had stolen and which he straightway returned. He then went to the civil authorities, confessed his crimes, surrendered himself and spent seven years behind prison bars to expiate them. When he regained his freedom he returned to his old haunts and exerted the influence of his new life upon the old gang, with the result that nine were likewise converted and today seven of them are serving as missionaries in the foreign field. It was an inspiration to grasp his hand and to hear him sing, "When Jesus Came into My Heart." Reader, how many lives have you brought to Christ? This is not a Luther League matter, but it will rejoice our hearts as Christians to be assured that while slanderers and critics are condemning the Church, claiming that the world catastrophe is proof that Christianity has failed in its mission, it is still a personal matter between the sinner and his God, and that while the thunders and lightnings of war may rend the mountains, the still small voice is still speaking in the hearts of men.

The convention motto was: "Make straight the way." I think this a splendid motto for Lutherans just at this time. As our Quadri-Centennial Year is drawing to a close; with our Church's great gifts and advantages fresh in our minds; with the removal of synodical barriers making us one great Church; with the coming of Advent, whose message is, "Behold, thy King cometh unto thee," to the Lutheran Church as to no others comes the call: "Make straight the way." What will you remove from your life that obstructs the way?

The men of Philadelphia recently held a mass meeting in honor of the four hundredth anniversary of the Reformation at which two of our prominent Leaguers were the speakers. Mr. E. Augustus Miller, of Philadelphia, spoke on the subject, "Lutheran Cooperation," and Mr. Robbin B. Wolf, of Pittsburgh, on the subject, "The Lutheran Church and Patriotism."

The Christian Endeavor Society has recently laid the cornerstone of a new headquarters building in Boston. Hurry along the Jubilee Fund that the Luther League of America can at least have an office.

From the letters which come to my desk, I note that all of our State Leagues, some of our districts, and many of our locals are taking cognizance of this Jubilee Year in their programs. Let us remember that the proper way to celebrate this great event in the world's history is to review the past, build on the present, and prepare for the future, or, as the slogan reads: "To celebrate the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century and to hasten the transformation of the twentieth."

Very truly yours,

HARRY HODGES,

General Secretary.

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BOOK REVIEWS

WHAT THE WORLD OWES LUTHER, by Junius R. Remensnyder, D.D., LL.D. Cloth, pp. 94. Fleming H. Revell Company, New York and Chicago. Price, 50c net.

This book from the pen of one of the best known writers in the Lutheran Church, is a worthy contribution to the literature of the four hundredth Anniversary of the Reformation. Some idea of the scope of the book may be gathered from the chapters which treat of "Luther's Unique Personality," "Author of Civil and Religious Liberty," "The Mysticism of Luther," "Luther and the Fine Arts," "Luther's Faults," "What the World Owes Luther," "America's Debt to Luther," and "Luther's Growing Fame," beside the usual chapters of early years, home life and his work in the Reformation. One feature in the book we like is that Dr. Remensnyder states his own conclusion respecting each of the subjects connected with the Great Reformer upon which he writes, and does not leave you in doubt as to where he himself stands. Take an example or two to illustrate the style and the same deduction of the author: "The unanimous testimony of Luther's associates is to his big-heartedness, urbanity, kindliness, gayety of spirits, and that his sparkling wit and humor were playful and not satirical." The verdict then of mankind as to Luther's faults is rather that remarkable one of Lessing: "In such reverence do I hold Luther that I rejoice in having been able to find some defects in him, for I have been in danger of making a god of him. The proofs that in some things he was like other men are to me as precious as the most dazzling of his virtues." Again, Dr. Remensnyder has this to say: "And the lesson is one that our materialistic age especially should note. Luther was a spiritual hero. He wielded no sword but the weapon of truth. He bore no scepter but the authority of the Word of God. He had for his only ideal, religion: his only aim, the good of men and the everlasting welfare of the soul. And because he was a warrior, a prince, and a hero of the realm of spirit, his fame is set upon a hill that cannot be hid, and his light shines like a mighty sea-mark into the far abyss of time." The letterpress is good. The paper is of good quality and the pages are well placed in print. The type is clear and well inked, so that the reader can enjoy the perusal of this handy, comprehensive biography with ease, without the slightest danger of eye strain. We recommend the book and are sure our Leaguers will enjoy its reading.

LUTHER EXAMINED AND REEXAMINED, by W. H. T. Dau, Professor Concordia Theological Seminary. Paper and cloth editions, pp. 243. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. Paper, 35c; cloth, $1.

This book is a review of Catholic Criticism of Luther and a plea for revaluation. We know of no one better qualified for this task than Dr. Dau himself. The table of contents is very satisfactory. The book is frankly polemical and the replies to the attacks made on Luther by Catholic writers is such a defense as his calumniators must recognize as that of one fully competent to unmask their shams. Every Lutheran should have a copy of this book.

Luther League Review

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ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE
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IN THE INTERESTS OF
The Lutheran Church and Her Young People
REV. LUTHER M. KUHNS, EDITOR,
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—with—
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A. T. MICHLER, Philadelphia, Pa.
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Editorial

THE UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA.

Three Norwegian Lutheran Synods have united recently under one name without a dissenting voice. The three English speaking Lutheran bodies are now considering the question of a merger. The General Synod has already unanimously adopted the proposed constitution and the General Council and the United Synod of the South will within the next two months act upon it, with the same result, it is hoped.

The Luther League of America has been a strong factor in preparing the way for this union, and we, as loyal members of the Lutheran Church, ought to do everything in our power to help still further until the union is actually accomplished. And a great Lutheran Church it will be when the English speaking Lutheran people are one, and we may be thankful to God for the accomplishment of this for which we have been praying and working quietly and earnestly.

It will do much toward the accomplishment of this event if the Luther League co-operates, not as a separate organization, but as members of the Church, and in our various congregations do all we can for the fulfillment of this union. Therefore, it is important that all the organizations, both district and State, which have not already done so, should at the earliest moment adopt a resolution approving of the "United Lutheran Church of America." We are all interested in seeing the different branches in one, and we pray God that this may speedily be brought about. A great work is to be done by the Lutheran Church, which will, upon the consummation of this act, number about one million communicants. How much greater work will be done in the Church, in the various organizations, Home, Foreign and Church Extension, than has been done heretofore. It will be a great day for the Lutheran Church when all the bodies use their united strength in all the boards and organizations of the Church.

DR. MILLER'S DEATH.

Dr. C. Armand Miller's death on the evening of September 10 was a distinct loss to the Luther League. He was thoroughly in sympathy with the League. From the time the League was organized until his death he was a staunch friend and supporter of the League. For years he prepared the Lenten Topics for the Luther League Topics Leaflet. This, too, was the last work he did for the League. The Lenten Topics of 1917 appearing in the Luther League Topics was his work. At Luther League conventions he was a frequent and favorite speaker. Always and ever he was ready to respond to any demand the young people of the Church made of him. His death in the midst of his years of ripe manhood and greatest usefulness occasioned a sense of loss not easily overestimated. We are glad to pay tribute to his many superior qualities, his ability as a preacher, and his studious and meditative habits made him a friend whose companionship and advice were cherished as one of the treasures of life.

GIVE THANKS.

This is the month for the observance of our National Thanksgiving Day. As a nation we have occasion to give thanks for abundant harvests and great prosperity. We can acknowledge God's goodness to us in many ways. Though we are at war, dire calamity has not befallen us and we have been spared wide and deep mourning. Our trust is in God. With the Psalmist we can say: "Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness; and Thy paths drop fatness. They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness; and the little hills rejoice on every side." We can give thanks to our Heavenly Father from whom without ceasing we have received exceedingly abundantly all good gifts, and He also has daily guarded us against all evil by His pure grace. With our whole heart we can acknowledge all this and evermore thank and praise Him for His kindness and exceeding goodness.

LUTHER'S APPEARANCE

The Reformation of the Church in the sixteenth century constituted not only a grand epoch in the history of Christianity, but in the world. It was a glorious revival of religion, literature, liberty, and all the best and dearest interests of man. It was a mighty revolution which changed the entire character of the religious and political world. It produced beneficial effects that are permanent. It overthrew principles long revered to be divine. It introduced new modes of thought and action. It created an extraordinary excitement throughout the whole of Europe. It agitated the learned in the universities. It roused the nobles in their castles. It stirred the monks in their cloisters, and it awoke the populace in their homes.

Protestants maintained that Christianity was restored to its primitive, scriptural simplicity and integrity by the Reformation. They further maintained that the doctrines and precepts and ordinances of God were cleansed of the excrescences that had been permitted to grow upon them by the Reformation. The emancipation of the Church of God from the bondage of sin and ignorance came with the glorious Reformation.

The central figure in the Reformation was Martin Luther. We have seen pictures of this man. We have asked, are they correct portrayals of the man? What did he look like? How did he appear? These questions are answered for us by Loescher. The description of Luther by Loescher is as follows: "This distinguished man had naturally a sound constitution, which was not easily affected even by his indefatigable industry and almost overwhelming labors. He was of moderate height, full face, and fresh complexion; much labor and abstinence from gross food seemed to suit him best; the least indulgence soon made him sick. He was of lively temperament, was exceedingly fond of music, in which he produced many excellent compositions, and played skillfully on the flute. His voice was penetrating and clear, which rendered him a good alto singer in his earlier years. He had an undying love for the truth, an extraordinary power in discovering and defending it. There was an uncommon transparency in his ideas and a singular felicity in expressing them, so that he threw the clearest light on the darkest subjects, and removed the thorns of subtlety as well as the clouds and mist of confusion from all matters which he undertook to illustrate. He had a rare faculty of representing truth in the vigorous style, showing the very kernel of it in the most palpable manner; a remarkable penetration into the ways of God and the internal connection of things; a heroic resolution to do and suffer everything for the divine truth; a cheerful readiness to promote everything useful and necessary and a wonderful fortitude in resisting everything which could lead him either to the right hand or to the left." As Professor Smith, formerly of Pennsylvania College, puts it:

"His eye is mild, yet by its vivid fire
The inward spirit's burning zeal betrays;
A mind to think and do, and holy ire
At falsehood's reign, his lofty brow displays.
When to a gentle smile his lips unfold,
There's sweetness, kindness in his radiant face:
But when compressed, decision prompt and bold,
And firmness naught can shake assume their place.
But, hark! what voices ring around him there?
Here praise, there execration rends the air."

WHY A LUTHERAN

I am a Lutheran because the Lutheran Church stands four-square on the three fundamental principles of the Bible, namely:

Christ the only foundation.

The *Word of God* the only means of Grace.

Faith the only condition of Salvation.

Our Churches and Institutions

In Some of Our Large Cities

NEW YORK

—Mr. Henry Busch, a lifelong member of St. John's Church, Christopher street, New York, died suddenly on October 7. He strongly influenced the lives of countless young men and women for Christ. He knew the work of the Luther League from the beginning, and had earnest part in its inception. In his death many have lost for a while a great friend. His funeral text, of his own choosing, was Psalm 34, 6: "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles."

—Rev. William M. Horn has resigned the pastorate of the Church of the Advent in order to accept the call as university pastor at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. Pastor Horn has been at the church since 1904, first as assistant to the late Dr. G. F. Krotel and then as his successor after his decease. The resignation is to take effect December 1.

DENVER

—The Augustana Church, Rev. G. A. Brandelle, D.D., pastor, has for some years had a mission cottage at the head of which has been a deaconess from Omaha. The congregation has now decided to enlarge this work. Lots have been bought on Emerson street for $3,000 and the contract for a new building costing $12,250 has been let. The building will be used as a home for young women.

YORK

—Christ Church, Rev. Dr. G. W. Enders, pastor, the mother church of the city, celebrated the 183d anniversary of its founding in 1733, and the thirty-fourth anniversary of Dr. Enders' pastorate on June 25. Where in 1733 a vast wilderness and virgin forest existed, now 136 Lutheran congregations, with 47,363 baptized members and 164 Sunday schools with 38,646 enrolled, occupy the original territory. Nearly 100 ministers have entered the holy office from this field. Last year the Lutherans on this territory contributed $60,972 for benevolences, and $308,009 for all objects. Eleven pastors have served here an average of seventeen years. In the thirty-four years of Dr. Enders' pastoral labors he preached 9,000 sermons, officiated at 1,046 weddings, 1,100 funerals, 2,137 baptisms, received 2,500 new members, and was partly instrumental in planting thirty new Lutheran missions in this territory. Sixteen men have entered the ministry from this congregation during these thirty-four years. All departments of the mother church are in splendid condition.

GENERAL

—St. John's Church, Salisbury, N. C., after undergoing improvements costing $25,000, was rededicated on July 29. Rev. M. M. Kenard, Ph.D., D.D., is pastor.

—Rev. O. A. Mortvedt, B.D., of Newark, Ill., has been elected president of Pleasant View Luther College, Ottawa, Ill., vice Rev. H. M. Thompson.

—Among the Lutheran pastors especially well known to Luther Leaguers who are serving in the army and navy, we note: Rev. E. F. Keever, D.D., Rev. S. G. Trexler, Rev. Simon M. Lutz and Rev. Gustav Stearns.

—Rev. Prof. George H. Schodde, Ph.D., D.D., professor of Greek at Capital University, died on September 15. Dr. Schodde was formerly news editor of *The Lutheran Standard* and is widely known as a writer and author. He was sixty-three years of age.

—Under the auspices of several Lutheran Churches of Madison, Wis., a grand Quadricentennial Celebration was held at Monona Park, Madison, September 7, 8 and 9. One of the features of the program was a grand chorus composed of members of various Lutheran congregations of Madison and Dane County. Among the speakers were Governor E. L. Phillip, Madison; Prof. Elmer F. Krauss, D.D., president of Chicago Lutheran Seminary, Maywood, Ill.; Prof. M. J. Stolee, Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Paul, and Rev. Howard E. Snyder, university student pastor, Madison.

—

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How much does North America owe to the Protestant parsonage which is another gift of the Reformation? Name the senators in our halls of legislation, the judges of our courts, the statesmen, the lawyers, the physicians, the surgeons, the merchants, the ministers, the men eminently useful in every walk of life, who have come from Protestant parsonages. What hospitality is there dispensed; what cheer is given to help those who come for advice and strengthening; what example of Christian home-life in our own and in non-Christian lands!

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Report of Treasurer Luther League of America

August 8, 1916, to October 1, 1917

	Members	Dues Unpaid Aug. 8th, 1916	Dues For 1917	Total	Paid	Unpaid Oct. 1st, 1917	Amount Apportioned	Jubilee Fund Paid	Jubilee Fund Unpaid
California	....	$2.50	$2.50	$5.00	....	$7.50	$10.00	$10.00	....
Colorado	....	2.50	2.50	5.00	....	5.00	11.25	....	$11.25
Connecticut	496	....	29.76	29.76	$29.76	....	124.00	....	124.00
Canada	730	43.80	43.80	87.60	43.80	43.80	182.50	....	182.50
Dist. of Columbia.	200	6.40	12.00	18.40	18.40	....	50.00	17.50	32.50
Illinois	1,586	150.32	96.16	245.48	245.48	....	396.50	183.61	212.89
Indiana	454	67.10	27.24	95.24	94.34	....	113.50	96.52	16.98
Iowa	505	90.00	30.00	120.00	10.00	110.00	126.25	24.00	102.25
Kansas	486	....	29.16	29.16	29.16	....	121.50	60.00	61.50
Michigan	....	....	....	.....	....	....	....	2.00	....
Minnesota	417	25.02	25.02	50.04	....	50.04	104.25	2.00	102.25
Nebraska	374	....	22.44	22.44	22.44	....	93.75	....	93.75
New Jersey	400	24.00	24.00	48.00	24.00	24.00	100.00	52.25	47.75
New York	5,727	435.91	343.62	779.53	86.11	693.42	1,431.75	202.50	1,229.25
North Carolina	....	....	....	.....	7.20	....	....	....	....
Ohio	2,428	....	145.68	145.68	145.68	....	607.00	212.55	394.45
Oregon-Washington	481	12.00	28.86	40.86	12.00	28.86	120.25	....	120.25
Pennsylvania	13,379	602.71	802.74	1,405.45	705.45	700.00	3,344.75	669.00	2,675.75
South Dakota	550	33.00	33.00	66.00	33.00	33.00	137.50	15.00	122.50
Wisconsin	347	20.82	20.82	41.64	41.64	....	86.75	58.40	28.35
Baltimore District.	300	18.00	18.00	36.00	36.00	....	75.00	44.25	30.75
Detroit, Mich.	119	....	7.14	7.14	....	7.14	29.75	16.50	13.25
Totals	28,979	$1,521.98	$1,752.24	$3,286.22	$1,584.46	$1,701.76	$7,266.25	$1,666.08	$5,600.17

RECEIPTS.

Dues	$1,584.46	
Contributions, Organizations (On acc. Balti. Convent. pledges)	85.00	
Individual Contributions (On acc. Balti. Convent. pledges)	262.28	
Offerings Toledo Convention	142.21	
Junior League Contributions for Junior League Helpers	118.50	
Jubilee Fund Contributions	1,666.08	
	$3,858.53	
Balance August 9, 1916	60.75	
		$3 919.28

EXPENSES.

Expenses Speakers, Toledo Convention	$154.50	
Mr. Hodges, General Secretary, Expenses and Salary	1,783.64	
Rev. Kuhns, Literature Secretary, Expenses and Salary	1,595.59	
Officers' Expenses	88.40	
Executive Committee Expenses	91.45	
Printing and Stationery	44.32	
Postage	5.00	
Junior League Committee Expenses	46.50	
Jubilee Fund Expenses (printing, typewriting, postage, stationery, etc.)	90.92	
		3,900.32
		$18.96

The above would show that there is outstanding in dues and Jubilee Fund in amount $7,301.93.

It is absolutely necessary that treasurers of both State and Districts do all they can to collect both dues and Jubilee Fund, for while we have paid both our secretaries in a little better way than last year, we are still in their debt to an extent of about $2,000, and in addition owe miscellaneous bills to about $200.

Mr. Hodges has done considerable traveling in the West, which has materially increased his expense item, but it was necessary, so the money has been well spent.

Your treasurer stands ready to co-operate in any way he can to assist treasurers in collecting dues and Jubilee Fund, and will furnish whatever material he can.

Altogether this is the best year in the League's history, as we have collected about $1,400; more in fourteen months than was collected in two years before, showing that treasurers everywhere have been active, for which I extend my sincere thanks.

For the reasons stated above it is necessary that we work harder than ever during the next three months, so that we can have our slate as clean as possible by January 1, 1918, and usher in a better year than the League has ever had in the matter of finances.

Respectfully submitted,

P. WALTER BANKER,

Treasurer Luther League of America.

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Luther League

SEND IN THE NEWS—Under this heading we aim to give the fullest reports possible of all District and Local Leagues. Secretaries and other officers are earnestly solicited to send in reports and items of news promptly.

Luther League of America

Organized at Pittsburgh, Pa., October 30 and 31, 1895, by delegates representing State, District and individual organizations from twenty different States in the Union and District of Columbia.

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NEW YORK

—The dates, May 21 to 23, 1918, have been selected for the twenty-fifth anniversary convention of the Luther League of New York State, which will be held in Brooklyn. The progressive Brooklyn District League has already begun to advertise this convention for the purpose of arousing interest in it.

NEW YORK DISTRICT LEAGUE

—The New York District League has, through its executive committee, decided to celebrate the Quadricentennial on Friday evening, November 9, by an informal meeting at which a light supper will be served and three addresses will be made on subjects that present Reformation ideas and have a bearing upon present day church life.

BUFFALO DISTRICT

—The Luther League of Grace Lutheran Church, North Tonawanda, conducted a model Luther League meeting September 11 at which time it entertained the young people from St. Peter's and St. Paul's Ohio Synod churches, also the young people from St. Martin's Church, Martinsville. The attendance was very large. The topic was treated by Miss Mabel Hains. The discussion was led by Louis A. Wilke. The jubilee fund has been collected. A contest is being conducted with L. A. Wilke, leader of the boys, and Miss Viola Newman, leader of the girls, whose object is to have all recently confirmed members of the church join the League. At the September meetings the boys had ten new members. Five boys have been called to serve our country; the League presented each with a pocket Testament and psalms. On Tuesday, October 2, Miss Mabel Hains, vice-president of the League, was united in marriage to Mr. John Henning, the League's financial secretary. The League will hold an entertainment on Thursday, November 22, at Colonel Payne School entitled the "Triumph of Nan Worthington," the proceeds to be added to the church building fund.

PENNSYLVANIA

LANCASTER DISTRICT

—Mr. John M. Fry, fifty-one years old, died suddenly of heart failure as he was leaving a tailor shop in Lancaster, September 12. Mr. Fry was editor of the Ephrata Reporter, and was president of the Lancaster District Luther League. He was deeply interested and very active in church work.

UPPER LEHIGH VALLEY DISTRICT

—The upper section of the district held a rally in Christ Church, Hazleton, on October 3, 1917. The feature of the evening was a model Luther League meeting conducted on the same plan as that held at the Pennsylvania State Convention at Reading, Pa. The subject of the devotional meeting was the topic for September 16, "Confirmation; Its Meaning and Obligation." Miss Myrtle Heidenreich, of Freeland, read the essay on this subject, Mr. Arthur Heidenreich, of Hazleton, made an address, and Mr. Daniel Amend, of Upper Lehigh, led the discussion. During the business meeting the report concerning the district's share of the jubilee fund and what is still due this fund was read. Means of raising the entire amount were discussed and the offerings of the evening voted to this fund. In the course of the social meeting Miss Mary Siegel and Miss Minnie Wiegand gave readings and Misses Florence Steckroth and Mabel Swettman played piano solos.

The fall convention of this district will be held at Audenried, Pa., November 20-21, 1917. An excellent Reformation program has been arranged. Rev. Melhorn, pastor of Trinity Church, Reading, will speak at one of the sessions. The U. L. V. D. L. L. was well represented at the Reading convention and the delegates from there are putting new enthusiasm into the local and district organizations. The League is expected to derive great benefit from the coming district convention and every effort is being made to make it a great success.

INDIANA

—All local secretaries are requested to send the names and company number, if possible, of all the young men in their League, who are in Camp Taylor, at Louisville, to Rev. John B. Gardner. 1212 South Floyd avenue, Louisville, Ky. Rev. Gardner would like to get in touch with all the Lutheran boys in camp. L. Louisa Nees, chairman, Press Committee of Indiana.

—The Luther League of St. Luke's Church, Logansport, Rev. L. W. Sifferd, pastor, recently gave the "Pageant of Protestantism" to a large audience, which was very highly praised.

FORT WAYNE DISTRICT

—Although not quite six months old the North Manchester Luther League has shown remarkable strength. This League was organized May 25, 1917, at a social meeting of the young people. Officers were elected at this time. On June 27 the League sent two delegates, accompanied by three visitors, to the state convention, and the League joined the state organization on the next day. The following Sunday the League was visited by Rev. J. R. Strock, president Watts Memorial College at Guntur, India, who induced the League to contribute $5 per year for the education of a native missionary in India. On August 8 the League gave a lawn social, when over $43 was received and over $26 was cleared. On September 14 a rally meeting was held which was attended by the Hon. O. C. C. Fetta, president of the State Luther League, who gave a short but interesting address to the members. Since its organization the League has been steadily growing, until it now has an active membership of about twenty-five.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE DISTRICT

—The Quadricentennial celebration held at Chesapeake Beach, September 6, and reported in the October issue of the REVIEW, was held under the auspices of the Luther Leagues of Baltimore and Washington, all the Lutheran Churches of both cities participating. Though the weather was inclement there were more than 1,000 people present. Messages of greeting were read from the president and general secretary of the Luther League of America. Miss Marie Staib, of the Baltimore District League, managed the steamer excursion, and much credit is due her for creating an enthusiasm among the Lutheran youth of Baltimore to attend. Mr. H. Caemmerer, of Washington, was chairman of the excursion committee of that organization. At the close a resolution

was passed to make the event an annual one, but to hold it earlier in the season.

OHIO

ZANESVILLE DISTRICT

—On Sunday evening, September 2, a Luther League was organized at Stone Creek, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, with fourteen charter members. A delegation from St. Paul's, Newcomerstown, Ohio, assisted in the organization and gave a brief report of the state convention. The following officers were elected: President, Oscar E. Shumaker; vice-president, Jacob Endlich; secretary, Edna Miller; assistant secretary Ida Buss; treasurer, Walter Moomaw; assistant treasurer, Arthur Angel; organist, Ursula Moomaw; assistant organist, Zora Hawk. The pastor, Rev. J. C. Schafer, was present, and gave his hearty approval. The League will belong to the Zanesville District.

TOLEDO DISTRICT

—Rev. B. B. Uhl has organized a Luther League at Augsburg Church, West Toledo. Mr. O. C. Rohde, president Luther League of Ohio, with his wife, has recently united with this church.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT

—St. Lucas' League, Toledo, has contributed $25 to the General Mission Fund of that church.

—Martin Luther League, Toledo, has donated $75 to the building fund of their church.

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO DISTRICT

—On Tuesday evening, September 25, the young people of Mt. Zion Church organized a Luther League. There were about forty enthusiastic young people in attendance at this meeting. Mr. Foss, Chicago District president; Mrs. M. L. Boedecker, recording secretary of the Chicago District, and Mr. Alfred Dahlberg, South Side vice-president, were present and made suitable addresses. This League gives promise of becoming an important factor in the Chicago District League.

—At its last business meeting, October 2, St. James' Luther League acted upon some of the resolutions passed at the State convention, namely, to furnish Bibles to all boys leaving for the service of their country; to establish an honor roll which will be donated and taken care of by the president, Mrs. Boedecker, and to have special Reformation studies at the remaining devotional meetings in October as a fitting celebration of the four hundredth anniversary.

WISCONSIN

—On August 7 the young people of the First Church, Stoughton, gave a farewell reception to the local National Guard. Of the ninety members of the Guard about forty were members of the First Church. Rev. M. H. Hegge, pastor of the church; Capt. C. J. Rollis, of the National Guard, and some of the business men gave addresses to the boys. The soldiers were highly pleased that their church should recognize their service to the country.

MILWAUKEE DISTRICT

—The Luther League of the Church of the Redeemer, Milwaukee, has contributed a timber 10 inches by 10 inches by 24 feet to the new mission chapel being erected by Field Missionary Weisskottin, at Fifteenth and Davis streets. During the summer this congregation has been worshipping in a tent and it is hoped the chapel may be completed before the cold weather begins.

KANSAS

—The next annual convention will be held in Topeka, and any suggestions as to that meeting will be welcomed. They should be sent to the president or the chairman of the executive committee.

—Every pastor should take an active interest in the work of the Luther League for it is in this body of young people that the future workers, both ministerial and lay, are trained.

FIRST DISTRICT

—The Luther Leagues of Glasco and Salina met with the Luther League of Minneapolis and formed the First District League of Kansas. A constitution was adopted with the purpose of creating Lutheran fellowship to increase interest in local work. It was decided to meet quarterly with two voting delegates each. After the forming of the constitution the following officers were elected: Harold Running, president; Flossie Elliott, vice-president; Clara Grittman, secretary. The next meeting will be in Glasco in celebration of the Reformation festival.

NEBRASKA

—St. John's Church, Norfolk, Rev. E. Ahrens, pastor, enjoys the existence of a wide-awake Junior Luther League, with members ranging in age from twelve to sixteen years. Rev. J. Matthiesen, Falls City, recently addressed the members of the League and gave helpful methods of work. With the assistance of the pastor and his gifted wife this society promises to become a valuable asset to the congregation.

—The Luther League of St. Paul's Church, Wichita, Rev. G. G. Clark, D.D., pastor, has decided to donate to the church certain altar and pulpit vestments.

WASHINGTON

—The young people of St. Paul's Church, Seattle, Rev. F. W. C. Stoever, pastor, have organized a Luther League.

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CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

In Luther's day the States of Europe were chained to the chariot of the Emperor, whose driver was the Pope. Into their hands Luther placed the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and States which have wielded that sword have severed the chain and become free. Modern freedom is the fruit of the tree planted by Martin Luther. "The priceless blessings of liberty and the rights of conscience recognized, enjoyed, and guaranteed in our own great republic, and working like a leaven among all people who do not enjoy them, are, directly and indirectly, the result of the truths and principles so clearly and so forcibly proclaimed by Martin Luther four hundred years ago."

Among the Papers

THE SPIRIT WITHIN THE WHEEL

No thinking man can look out upon the world as it is today without feeling that out of all the travail through which we are passing there is to be born a new order. Old prejudices, old ideals, old viewpoints are passing away and in their stead is coming a new outlook upon life with its opportunities and responsibilities; a new willingness on the part of men to put first things first and to do their part in the plan to establish social justice and promote the reign of our Lord in all the relations of life.—*St. Andrew's Cross.*

DOES YOUR AUTO BELONG TO CHURCH?

If your automobile does not belong to church, the responsibility rests with the owner and not with the machine. The automobile that joins the Church can be almost as useful as a man. It can double the number of people going to church from out its road. It can take to the church the aged, the lame, the blind, and all the shutins of the community.

A Quaker rode up to his place of business in his automobile, when a carping neighbor of the same faith said to him, "Friend Stephen, what would Saint Paul say if he saw thee driving up in an automobile?" The Quaker replied, "I think Paul would say, 'Friend Stephen, how wonderfully times have improved since my day!' "—*The Watchword.*

CLOSER CO-OPERATION

If each society will do its duty toward its District, each District toward the International body, and the latter in turn will do its duty toward the Districts and through them to the societies, our "Efficiency System" will have been established. But the system is not a "self-starter." By itself it will accomplish nothing. It is merely the "plan of battle" and depends for success on "the man behind the gun." —*Walther League Messenger.*

WHAT THE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEEDS TODAY

No matter how much we may unite, and no matter how much we may be able to temporarily enthuse our people with the magnificent history of our Church, we shall break down under the tremendous responsibility of the present and of the future, if the members of the Church do not come to realize their need of greater spiritual power. It is undeniable that a spirit of worldliness has been creeping into our churches. The daily need of the Word of God is being less appreciated by our members, family worship is practically a thing of the past, and the number of worshipers in the house of God is becoming increasingly smaller. Comparatively little is said in the religious press of this undeniable and deplorable condition of our churches today. Instead we are entreated almost ad nauseam to celebrate and jubilate. Yes, we have occasion to, and we should properly commemorate the achievement of Luther, we should shout with joy our gratitude to God for an open Bible, for freedom of conscience, for the restored right of every individual to form his own religious concepts on the basis of the revealed Word of God. But how can a people do this that is becoming gradually ignorant of the Word of God, is becoming dull to the voice of conscience and cares little for religious concepts of any kind?—*The Lutheran Companion.*

FLOATING POPULATIONS

It is announced that the government is going to confer with manufacturers to induce them to stop bidding against each other for help and enticing each other's employes away, thus impeding government work. The workpeople may not relish this interference as this bidding for their service does increase wages temporarily.

There is already too much tendency among workpeople to drift around from place to place. Things are not as they used to be when men would work all their lives at one job and call the proprietor by his front name. Now the man who works at one job five years is the exception. People wander from town to town, tempted by temporary offers. As a result they never acquire the most thorough experience in any one particular business. They seem to be better off, yet they eat up their money in moving their household goods.

A floating population makes civic betterment difficult. The man who expects to live in his quarters only a short time will do nothing to beautify his home. This results in whole neighborhoods where there is not the slightest effort toward town improvement. Floating populations do not identify themselves with any local institutions and count for little in efforts made for social advance.—*The Examiner.*

Luther League Topics

First Sunday in Advent — December 2, 1917

THE DAYS OF CREATION

Gen. 1:1, 26-27.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday—Morning, Matt. 11:25-30; evening, Gen. 3:1-24.

Tuesday—Morning, Acts 3:22-26; evening, Gen. 9:1-19.

Wednesday—Morning, Col. 1:15-29; evening, Gen. 23:1-19.

Thursday—Morning, Heb. 1:1-4; evening, Gen. 49:1-28.

Friday—Morning, Heb. 2:1-4; evening, Numb. 24:14-25.

Saturday—Morning, Eph. 3:1-12; evening, Deut. 18:15-19.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

Use Psalm 8, read responsively, calling attention to the similarity in thought in Gen. 1:26 and Psa. 8:6, as to man's place in creation.

Have various members read the following verses, making comment on same as desired: John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16, 17, noting especially the marginal reading as to last word in v. 17; Eph. 2:10; Isa. 45:11, 12; Eccl. 12:1.

Have some member emphasize the fact that God alone can create, showing the distinction between God's Creation and man's making.

Show from the Scripture verses, that there were three distinct steps in creation: the creation of *matter* in verse 1, creation of animal *life* verse 21, and the creation of the human *soul*, verse 27, with Gen. 2:7.

Hymns: 2, 3, 47, 188.

Lesson.

The first words of the Bible are "In the beginning God created the Heaven and the Earth." God opens His Revelations with the fact of the world's creation. Professor Dana says of this, "Examining it as a geologist, I find it to be in perfect accord with known science; therefore, as a Christian, I assrt that the Bible narrative must be inspired." When creation took place we are not told; neither reason, science nor the Bible tells us. All we know is the evident fact of creation.

Modern investigation has not changed the inspired record. "Though written nearly thirty-five hundred years ago, the opening chapters of Scripture accord with the conclusions of the latest science, which tells us: 1. That the universe must have had a beginning. 2. That at its beginning the earth must have been in disorder and darkness. 3. That there must have been light over the waste long before the sun was visible. 4. That the development of the earth to its present condition must have been by successive steps. 5. That these periods must have been very nearly, if not precisely, in the Mosaic order. 6. That man made his appearance on the earth at a comparatively late period in its history. 7. That since the appearance of man no great geologic change has taken place in the earth's crust. So much we know at present concerning the cosmogony or origin and formation of the earth. How could Moses have known it thousands of years before modern science was born, and at a time when the wildest and most childish legends were related concerning the creation and constitution of nature? There could have been no other means of information than that of a revelation from on high. It may be that the picture of the creative periods was unfolded before his eyes; it may be that his pen was guided by a divine wisdom; but certain it is that he wrote the truth, for every new insight into astronomy, geogology, chemistry, and the other sciences respecting matter, as well as into philology, ethnology, and the sciences respecting man, bring new proofs of the honesty and veracity of his record." We recognize creation as God's work.

Teaching.

The first article of the Creed relates to creation. This is the article in the Creed: "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth."

By this we mean that Luther explains it: "I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that he has given and still preserves to me my body and soul with all my limbs and senses, my reason and all the faculties of my mind, together my raiment, food, home, and family, and all my property; that he daily provides me abundantly with all the necessaries of life, protects me from all danger and preserves me and guards me against all evil; all which he does out of pure, paternal, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me." This is the teaching of our Church, it is soundly Scriptural.

The thought is simply this, namely, God made, maintains and governs the world he has created. Creation is the act of God by which of his own free will he brought the world by his word into being out of nothing. "The spirit of God moves upon the face of the water, preparing the shapeless, lifeless mass for the creative world.

The Luther League Topics, complete lessons (of which the above are outlines and review), in 32-page pamphlet, covering three months can be supplied at rates given on page 36 by LUTHER LEAGUE REVIEW, 318-326 West 39th Street, New York City.

And then in six successive days God (1) created the light and separated it from the darkness, (2) made the firmament, (3) divided the dry land from the sea and covered it with plant life, (4) set the sun, moon and stars in their places, (5) made the fishes and the birds, (6) the beasts of the field and finally man. On the seventh day God rested from his work, and hallowed the day." How different is God's work from that of the architect who rears a cathedral, the sculptor who chisels symetrical and graceful forms from the marble, the painter who depicts life on the canvas and the machinist who constructs the engine. They work with material already existing, God alone creates.

Reflection.

Creation is a revelation of God. It displays the wisdom and goodness of God. By it we are led directly to a personal and spiritual God. It tells of God's nature, wisdom, power, knowledge and goodness. In this light only can we understand the work and purpose of Creation as revealing God's wisdom and love. It is the basis of the fuller revelation of God as our Father.

As Creator, God brought the earth out of chaos. The history of creation "shows the hand of God, the wisdom and love of God; and we should read it in the light of redeeming love." How much more skill and genius is required to make a watch that will keep time of itself and point out the days and months for successive years correctly than it takes simply to move the hands on the dial of the watch to the right place each day.

No cosmogony or speculation of science apart from God can either account for or reveal the origin of the world. "It is absurd to think of matter as originating mind, it is scientific to see all matter originating from mind. God is a spirit." The study of God's Word and Works in the lessons in the six days of creation throw light upon the progress of history. It shows a unity and harmony most wonderful. It stimulates in each one a faith in the Creator as our Almighty Father. It begets a trust in his love and care truly assuring.

Biblical References.

Job 33:4; Psa. 121:2, 7:3, 19:1, 97:6, 40:5; Isa. 42:5, 51:13; Jer. 27:5; Zech. 12:1; Rom. 1:20; Rev. 4:11.

Second Sunday in Advent. December 9, 1917.

OPEN DOORS IN LATIN AMERICA

(Missionary)

Luke 1:67-69.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday—Morning, Acts 17:16-34; evening, I Chron. 17:1-27.

Tuesday—Morning, I John 4:9-16; evening, II Chron. 7:11-22.

Wednesday—Morning, Col. 1:1-8; evening, Isa. 11:1-10.

Thursday—Morning, Phil. 2:12-18; evening, Jer. 23:2-8.

Friday—Morning, Phil. 3:12-16; evening, Jer. 30:1-22.

Saturday—Morning, Col. 3:1-11; evening, Jer. 33:14-26.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

Have an outline map of the countries of Latin America before the society during the meeting.

Have some member give a short talk, showing how the conditions in Latin America now are similar to the conditions in Europe at the time of the Reformation.

Let some member show the difference in attitude toward Protestant Christianity manifested now and twenty-five years ago.

Procure as many books as possible on Missions in Latin America, assigning one country to each member, in which typical social and religious conditions might be revealed.

Have some member show how Ezekiel 34:1-16 portrays conditions in Latin America.

Hymns: 212, 215, 217, 219.

(Topic reviewed by Rev. Charles L. Fry, D.D., Secretary of the Pan-Lutheran Missionary Society for Latin America.)

All are agreed that the task is too gigantic in its magnitude, and too urgent in its immediate importance, for any one branch of our Church to cope with it single-handed.

South America's Needs.

South America has one missionary to 195,853 people. North America has one minister to every 514 people.

There are over 5,000 villages, towns and cities in Chile without a missionary or native worker.

Protestant schools are sorely needed. Government schools lay no foundation for religion. Illiteracy in Brazil, 85 per cent; in Bolivia, 93 per cent.

Our Church a Factor.

The Pan-Protestant movement in the United States, on behalf of Latin America, took definite form in the plan of the Congress at Panama. It was positively unthinkable that a move of such magnitude and scope, including all the Protestant communions of our nation, and involving the future religious destiny of the whole sister Continent on the south, should be inaugurated in this momentous year, and the mother Church of the Reformation have no hand in it.

This, for the reason that the only elements of South America's population, from which a native Protestant ministry can

come, are the Scandinavian and the German Lutherans who are there, and who are there to stay.

Our Lutheran Church has the largest opportunity, consequently the greatest obligation, of any Protestant Church in these Southern lands.

The descendants of our European Lutheran people are identifying themselves with the languages and customs of the lands in which they reside, while the Lutheran CHURCHES are confining their ministrations to a foreign tongue, and even so are not reaching one-tenth of the Lutheran settlements in these countries. We are in danger of repeating our mistakes in North America.

Now Is the Accepted Time.

Nothing could possibly be more opportune than that right now, in God's wondrous providence, this long neglected Continent should be thrown wide open to the entrance of Protestantism. And, mark you, it was by voluntary action of its own civic authorities, in spite of the most desperate Roman Catholic opposition. Just on the threshold, too, of this memorable year 1917, when the Protestant forces of North America are drawn into closer fellowship, by their joint celebration of the great quadri-centennial.

But lo, and behold! What is happening in our own day? Every last one of those South American and Central American Republics, in quick succession, has risen up in a fury of resentment against the blighting power of priestcraft, which has been its bane. Every one has gone the limit of CHANGING ITS NATIONAL CONSTITUTION to make room for that liberty for which Protestantism stands! Here is the most monumental constructive event of the past hundred years, as the European War is the most monumental in its destruction. And both these monumental events will work together in the over-ruling of Divine Providence, the one positively and the other negatively, to forge to the front the two Americas, North and South, which the Panama Canal (another marvel, executed just in the very nick of time) will tie together like a silver cord. For in the case of each of the Americas, the one only hope of working out its appointed destiny lies in Protestantism.

Biblical References.

Acts 5:20, 15:25, 26; 19:22; I Cor. 4:17; Eph. 6:21, 22; Col. 4:7-8; Matt. 24:14; John 5:15, 17:26; Col. 1:5-6.

Third Sunday in Advent. December 16, 1917.

THE FIRST SIN AND WHAT CAME OF IT

Gen. 3:1-19.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday—Morning, Heb. 10:35-39; evening, Isa. 2:1-5.

Tuesday—Morning, Luke 21:5-24; evening, Isa. 24:21, 25:5.

Wednesday—Morning, Luke 12:35-59; evening, Isa. 25:6-10.

Thursday—Morning, Jas. 5:7-11; evening, Isa. 26:1-21.

Friday—Morning, Luke 1:1-25; evening, Isa. 51:1-16.

Saturday—Morning, Luke 1:26-38; evening, Isa. 52:1-12.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

Call attention to the fact Sir W. J. Dawson observed, that there are no traces of the noxious weeds before the period man came on the earth, and that wherever man tills the soil they are to be found among the fruits of his labor.

Have members read from their Bibles in concert these verses, which reveal some of the results of the first sin: Gen. 6:5; Rom. 5:12-14, 19-21; John 8:34; Rom. 6:23.

Have one or two members give the various Bible definitions of sin, as found in I John 5:17 (first clause); I John 3:4; Jas. 4:17.

Have some member present the various definitions of sin as found in the catechism, such as original, actual, wilful and infirmity, etc.

Hymns: 230, 228, 223, 226.

Lesson.

Paul declares "by one man sin entered the world, and death by sin." This points to the present moral condition of man. It is different from that of our first parents, for the first man was created pure and innocent. The effect of sin has brought a change that places man in a different condition.

Being seduced by Satan, Adam and Eve transgressed God's law. The result was a state of corruption. Of their own free will they disobeyed God's command forbidding them to eat of the tree of knowledge.

We cannot tell how long Adam and Eve remained in the Garden of Eden in innocent enjoyment and holy life. Probably it was not a great while, as their first child was born after the fall. The joy of purity and the fullness of the intercourse with God by our first parents was soon marred.

The story of the fall is neither a myth nor a poetical story, but an historical account of an actual occurrence. In truths for today Professor Swing says, "Let us recall to mind what a large part of this story must be true, even if it made no pretense to be an inspired narrative. It is not, certainly, a myth that there is a human race, and there must have been a first pair, and this pair must have had a home and a Creator at hand; and must have made their first move in virtue or sin; and from what sin we now see in the world, that

they early left the paradise of virtue, is the verdict of history." The Bible account is a simple, straightforward, literal story, beautiful though sad, natural and honorable to man and God.

Teaching.

The transgression involved intellectual doubt, pride and selfishness of the will, inordinate cravings of appetites with the consequence that man incurred in his fall guilt and deserved punishment. By his refusal to obey God's positive command, man incurred the penalty of death. Guilty of a crime he exposed himself to the punishment God threatened as a penalty for disobedience, namely, death.

The consequences of Adam's sin are far-reaching. "Since Adam stood as the organic head of the human race, all his posterity share in his guilt, by the depravity of their nature which they have inherited from him by birth; and since this depravity is the source of all actual sins committed in the world, the whole human race must needs have suffered the death penalty of sin in all its terrible consequences, unless Jesus Christ had come into the world to redeem us and to restore our lost image of God." We are all involved in one sin each with individual accountability and each one of us receives a sentence. To the woman sorrow and pain were decreed though she had the promise of the hope of deliverance by promised seed. To man, labor and hardship were decreed with death's unsheathed sword suspended above him. Thus sin entered into the world with all its woes and penalties and each one has his own burden to bear. "Man perished in Eden even while it had a tree of life in it. So men perish now within sight of the Redeemer's Cross, because they will not believe and obey." The earth and man have not yet recovered from the curse sin wrought upon them.

Reflections.

Man, made in God's image, fell into sin with the consequence of the penalty of bodily and spiritual death.

God put man's obedience to the test. Man was created with a free will. He had the power to choose between obedience and disobedience. "Had he chosen to obey, all would have been well, but the devil, who is the source of all evil, came to Eve under the guise of a serpent and deceived her. He persuaded her to doubt God's threat of punishment, filled her soul with a longing to taste of the forbidden fruit, and prevailed on her to eat of it. Eve then gave some of the fruit to her husband; and Adam, though not deceived as she had been, listened to the persuasions of his wife and ate also." By yielding to the temptation and disobeying God they fell. They incurred a guilt with unlimited consequences.

Man failed in the test. He incurred by his fall: "(1) spiritual death; (2) bodily sickness and death; (3) guilt; (4) a defiled moral nature; (5) misery; (6) the kingdom of Satan; (7) a state of eternal punishment and death; (8) the defilement and injury of the whole race." The eyes of our first parents were indeed opened, opened to the vileness and guilt of sin, their lost condition and the certainty of misery. They were not opened to behold the expected glories of knowledge, they had anticipated, and the perfect heart union of innocency was broken and the image of God was lost. Man lost the dominion God had given him, and in his soul he felt the direful effects of sin, and over him was the shadowed doom of eternal misery.

Biblical References.

Num. 20:25; Deut. 32:51, 52; Job 20:11; Psa. 34:16, 51:5, 58:3; Prov. 2:22; Isa. 1:28, 48:8; Jer. 36:31; Ezek. 2:3; Rom. 6:6, 7:7-13, 8:7; Eph. 2:1; Col. 2:13; Eph. 2:3.

Fourth Sunday in Advent — December 23, 1917

CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isa. 9:1-8.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

Monday—Morning, Matt. 1:18-25; evening, Isa. 40:1-11.

Tuesday—Morning, Luke 1:39-45; evening, Mal. 3:1-7.

Wednesday—Morning, Luke 1:46-56; evening, Mal. 4:1-6.

Thursday—Morning, Luke 1:57-66; evening, Isa. 28:14-19.

Friday—Morning, Luke 1:67-80; evening, Isa. 7:1-17.

Saturday—Morning, Matt. 1:1-17; evening, Micah 5:1-15.

HINTS FOR LEADERS.

Have some member of ability read John 19:37 with Zechariah 12:10, John 1:3 with Isa. 45:18, 19, with other passages that might be found easily, to show that the One called Lord or Jehovah in the Old Testament is the same as Him whom we call the Christ in the New Testament.

Have the pastor, if possible, show how the Christ is shown in type in the ceremonies, especially as indicated in the passages: Lev. 1:3, 10; Lev. 16 with Heb. 9.

Have the society read Isa. 53 in concert, noting especially how it refers to the last days of Jesus Christ on the earth.

Have some member present the words of Christ Himself on this point: John 5:39; Luke 24:27; Matt. 21:16 with Psa. 8:2.

Psalm 72 should be read during the meeting, perhaps responsively, at the beginning of the service.

Hymns: 72, 73, 86, 89.

Lesson.

A unity in the prophecies concerning the Saviour and their fulfillment in Christ bind

together the Old and New Testaments. We read that "when the fulness of time came, God sent forth his Son." Thus the unity of Scripture centers in Christ.

In the long centuries of preparation preceding the birth of Christ, God prepared the world to receive a Saviour. Godly men in olden times looked forward with eager longing to the time when the Messiah should appear. They were the Patriarchs and Prophets and the leaders of Old Testament times.

The prophecies had to do with the human race. They had to do with the man Abraham who was chosen by God as the ancestor of a special people through whom the Saviour was to be given to the world. They concerned the peculiar people God had selected as the channel of blessing and the tribe of Israel through whom the Saviour should descend in human form. It was also indicated through what family Christ should come. "And because he was the descendant of David, the Jews expected him to set an earthly kingdom like that of David."

The prophecies of the Old Testament indicated that the Saviour would exercise the office of Prophet, Priest and King. It was also part of the prophecy that he should be a substitute for us. The Saviour who should come would be a substitute for man and in his place bear the punishment of sin. It was thus the prophet Isaiah looked forward into the future, and with clear prophetic vision saw the sufferings and death of Jesus who on Calvary upon the cross paid the penalty of man's sin.

Prophecies Relating to Christ.

The preparation for Christ's coming was marked by clear and explicit Messianic prophecies. Many of the events and circumstances in the Saviour's life are accurately foretold in the Old Testament. He should be preceded by a forerunner to prepare His way. He would be born of a virgin at Bethlehem. Gentiles should come and worship Him, and bring Him gold and incense. He would give light to those who walk in darkness and who dwell in the land of the shadow of death. He would have miraculous power, and open the eyes of the blind, unstop the ears of the deaf, cause the lame to leap as the hart, and the tongue of the dumb to sing. The kings of the earth would set themselves and the rulers take counsel together against Him. He would ride into Jerusalem as a King, though in poor and lowly state. He would be despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He would be betrayed by His own friend for thirty pieces of silver. He would be deserted by His disciples. He would be counted with the malefactors. He would die in great agony while the sun became darkened at noon-day. He would pray for His enemies, though reviled by them. His bones should not be broken. He would be pierced with a spear. He would be buried with the rich. He would rise again from the dead, ascend into heaven, and sit at the right hand of God. The revelations of prophecy, the sacrificial rights and personal anti-types of the Saviour were intended to help men recognize Him when He should come. Thus it was that through God's providence the Roman Empire paved the way by its laws, commerce, culture and language of the Greeks for the spread of the Gospel. The prophecy of the Old Testament comforted man with the assurance of a coming Saviour. The New Testament makes known this Saviour and his redemptive work.

The Advent of Christ.

On the earth the expectation of the Advent of Christ was almost identical with the promise of His coming. Eve herself cherished a hope that not any of her daughters, but that she herself should be the mother of Christ. Thus Eve failed in her first born, the promised seed, and clasped Cain to her beating bosom. She exclaimed, "I have gotten the man—the promised man—from the Lord." Never was a mother more bitterly disappointed. The bright, happy vision that had floated around the infant's cradle was false. In the quiet bower where Eve sang her baby boy to sleep came the cruel awakening of man's bloodshed. He who was to shed his own blood so generously was not to be the child of Mother Eve. "From that day onward many besides Eve were disappointed—if not so bitterly. The vision tarried; tarried long; for four thousand weary years, eyes grew dim looking, and hearts grew faint hoping, for it. But it came at last. Heavens all moved. Its gates fly open, and, accompanied by a shining train, the Son of God descends upon the world; and in that stable over whose humble roof angels are singing, and within whose bare, unfurnished walls an infant is wailing, the prophecy is fulfilled, unto us a child is born, and unto us a son is given." The world at last had its Christmas joy.

Intermediate and Junior Topics

BY REV. ARTHUR T. MICHLER, PHILADELPHIA.

The Lutheran Church has always been interested in her young people. From them come the church members and workers of the future. It is therefore very necessary that we continue our interest and remain loyal to our reputation, that the Church might grow. Here is the place where active League work comes in. We must therefore stress more and more the work of the Intermediate League. Unless we are alert some of our young people may become interested elswhere. But the way to keep our contact with our boys and girls when we have it is to always make the work of the Church interesting to them. The League work helps to do this for it is designed to meet the special interests of boys and girls.

DECEMBER 2.

"The Days of Creation."

By Ida M. Zinser.

Scripture Lesson—Genesis 1:1-26-27; 2.

General Truth—God brought forth out of the surrounding chaos, the heavens and the earth. When He saw everything that He had made was good, He said, "Let us make man in our own image." So this crown of His creations is a living soul, made in His likeness, imperishable, to whom He gave dominion over all the other works of creation. The world was made for man. In man's first dwelling place—the home in the garden, only one thing was forbidden—so much bounty—so little withheld.

The first man was not left alone; God made a helpmeet for him—and as one life is not complete without the other—so the work of the world and God's kingdom needs men and women.

Point of Contact—We are made in God's image and He has given us dominion over all the other works of creation. Every boy and every girl is a caretaker of one or many things. What, then, are you going to do with the possessions your Father has given you. Don't forget about the forbidden things but be strong to say "no" when duty demands it.

Lesson Developed—Let us consider some of the works of creation and see what glory lies in a single thing, what power there is in the Creator. What do you know about the sun and the moon? You cannot tell the number of the stars, but do you know Orion, or the Great Dipper, or the Southern Cross? You cannot stop the rising or the ebbing of the tide on the shore, but you can call many seas by name and know many kinds of life in the sea, and wonder at the work of one tiny coral insect.

And what of the wonders on the land, animal, vegetable, mineral! One tree, one flower, one insect, one precious stone, each a finished work. No power of man could do it—but God has given man power to work wonders with the forces of nature.

As the first man was to dress the garden and care for it, so God expects us to use every talent He has given us. Let us not bury them in the earth. Do you remember the question to Moses: "What is that in thine hand"? What have WE in our hands to use for service?

Scripture Reading—Psalm 8. Psalm 104.

DECEMBER 9.

"Open Doors in Latin America."

By Ida M. Zinser.

Scripture Lesson—St. Luke 1:67-69.

General Truth—This Benedictus—the word of praise of the priest Zacharias—gives us some thoughts which we can supply to these open doors on our southern continent. John came to be the messenger of Jesus. So now the Christians of this north land are entering in and are helping spiritually our southern neighbors.

Point of Contact—Doors are opening in the south land; our eyes are turning there. Can you help to send the true Word of God there, that the people whose religion is corrupt may see the real Sun of Righteousness and worship Him in purity? John was a messenger of Jesus. So are we. We are His hands, His feet, His lips, His ears down on this earth. Will you help to give light to them that sit in Darkness?

Lesson Developed—This country is immense—a land of magnificent distances and vast possibilities. The land is truly "El Dorado"—golden, rich in gifts of nature.

But the people are few. The native Indians, the Incas, were killed by millions with hard work by the early settlers, and for many years all immigration except Spanish was forbidden. This law was overruled some years ago and therefore immigrants of other countries have flocked to the southern shores.

It is largely with Scandinavians and Germans who have settled there, that the Lutheran Church is concerned.

If you study the early settlers and their motives for coming to South America as compared with the settlers of North America you will see how different reasons are for taking possession of the new lands and what a different kind of religion they brought. Was the teaching of the Jesuit fathers or the Pilgrim fathers the purest? What of the open door for us now as Lutherans? "The most sacred roads in the world are those which have been purchased by a life." There is a grave in South America which has truly opened up the way for us there. Baron Justinian von Welz, a Lutheran nobleman, in 1664 placed his hand on the latch, lifted it, and entered in. Because of his zeal he was called a fanatic—and his work seemed to end with him—but the seed was sown and is springing up even now, possibly to yield a hundred-fold.

Our mission in New Amsterdam, British Guiana, was started in 1743. For a while services ceased to be held, but the plant still remained and the church was reopened in 1878.

In this year, 1917, we have opened work in the great country of Argentina. Our pioneer missionary there is Rev. Ephraim Ceder, who has just written: "Judge of my joy to be invited to organize the young people of the Danish colony into a Young Peoples' League for Bible Study!"

Special Papers—
"The Christ of the Andes."
"A Pioneer to Patagonia."
"Francisco Penzotti and His Bibles."
"The Little Hunchbacked Padre and His Service."

DECEMBER 16.

"The First Sin and What Came of It."

By Marion V. Hirzel.

Scripture Lesson—Gen. 3:1-19.

General Truth—Here we have the account of how sin entered the world. Satan, in the form of a serpent, created a doubt in the mind of Eve as to the reliability of God. She believed it, then disobeyed. She influenced Adam. Thus sin with its terrible curse entered the soul of man. In its curse the whole world shares.

Point of Contact—Did you ever tell an untruth and while nobody knew it, as far as you knew, yet something within you kept telling you that you lied? And have you noticed that everything decays and finally goes to nothing? And have you seen how people grow up and finally grow old? All of this is due to sin, for which the devil is responsible.

The Story Told—After God had created Adam and Eve, He told them that they might have the fruit of every tree in the Garden of Eden except of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil which was in the midst of the garden. Of that one tree only He said they should not eat, for if they did, they would surely die.

Satan, in the form of a serpent, appeared unto Eve and asked her if God had said that she should not eat of any certain fruit in the garden? She answered that she had been forbidden to eat of the fruit of only one tree lest she should die. The serpent then told her that she should not die if she ate it but that she should become wiser. So she did as the serpent had told her instead of what God had commanded and she gave Adam also some of the fruit.

Soon after they had done this they heard the voice of God in the garden and they immediately hid themselves for they were afraid of God for the first time because they knew that they had disobeyed Him. God then called them and Adam confessed what they had done. Therefore God told them that because they had disobeyed Him, He would punish them.

He said that they should suffer from pain and sickness and it would be necessary to work for the fruit of the ground and that only by means of hard labor would they be able to live. God, when He created man, intended that he should live eternally, but because Adam and Eve disobeyed Him and He had said that they should die if they did this thing, therefore death came unto them and all mankind.

Even the earth and all created things shared in the downfall. Although we are blessed even now, God has a greater glory planned to be revealed unto us.

Hints to the Leader—Refer to other persons in the Bible who were tempted and failed—Judas, Ananias and Sapphira; and then to those who were tempted and overcame the temptation—Abraham, Paul, Christ.

DECEMBER 23.

"Christ in the Old Testament."

By Marion V. Hirzel.

Scripture Lesson—Isaiah 9:1-8.

General Truth—The work of the prophet was not only to reveal the will of God but also to foretell future events. Isaiah sees the hopelessness of Israel's sin and speaks of the Son Who is to come.

Point of Contact—Were you ever told anything you did not believe when you heard it? And then did you see the truth of it some time later? That was the experience of God's chosen people. They did not believe the prophet's words, but in time all was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

The Story Told—In the Old Testament there were a number of men who by divine inspiration had the power of telling some future event. This was called prophesying and the men who had this power were called prophets. One of these great prophets was Isaiah, from whose book our topic is taken.

Isaiah told the people how the country would be blessed by the birth of a little child, Jesus Christ, and how some countries that had hardly been known would become great and glorious by His coming because of the many wonderful miracles He would perform in them and of the many good deeds which He would do. Not only would the country be helped but the people would learn to be bright and happy because He would bring happiness with Him and would teach them to feel differently toward each other, to care for and help one another. He would help the children by having them brought to Him to bless them and by showing to the older people that even the children could be of service as in the case of the little boy who with his fish and barley loaves made it possible to feed 5,000 people.

Isaiah said that this Child's name should be called "Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Wonderful because His nature, His love, His deeds, His reign, in fact, everything about Him would be wonderful. Counsellor because of His great wisdom, ever being able to advise and direct for His people's good. The Mighty God because He truly was God divine. The Everlasting Father because He loved us as a father. The Prince of Peace for surely never was there such a Prince of Peace ever teaching and preaching and bringing peace to all mankind.

Isaiah said that the government which Christ would establish would ever continue to increase and would always stand for justice and righteousness. We who live in a Christian country today enjoy the benefits of the government which Christ established long ago.

Hints for the Leader—Have some one tell some of the things which took place in Zebulun and Naphtali during Christ's ministry on earth. Have some one tell the story of the Gideonites over the Midianites.

DECEMBER 30.

"Out of the Old Into the New."

By Francis C. Leupold.

Scripture Lesson—I Pet. 3:1-14.

General Truth—In our Scripture lesson the Apostle urges the spirit of obedience by both husband and wife. He likewise urges the graces of the Christian life.

Point of Contact—None of us like the old wornout things. A boy would rather have a new bicycle than an old one. A girl would rather have a new watch than a second hand one. This is true of our lives. We have lived another year. It is gone and we are that much older, but are we that much better? Now we have a fine chance to change from old things to

new ones. Let us put away these old wornout habits and change to the new fresh ones.

The Lesson—We meet today for the last time in this year and it is proper for us to think of discarding the old things and to put on new ones.

When we think today over the past year, we are struck with the numbers of things we wanted to do, but we put them off. Then there are things we did of which we are ashamed. We wish now that we had not done them. But time has gone. We can't get it back. Some of it we have wasted. But we can thank God that He is giving us another chance.

Now what are some of the old things we ought to discard? Well, an evil tongue. It is a world of iniquity, says James. It certainly does much mischief. How many times did we say things we ought not? We got angry and we said things of which we are ashamed. Let us discard this and put on the new power of self-control.

Then we saw much we ought not to have seen. We often look for trouble and we find it. Have we loved to make trouble for other people? Have we looked in the wrong direction? Have we read improper books? Have we used our eyes wrongly? Now let us turn from the old to the new and see the things which make for goodness, helpfulness, strength, power. Let us use those eyes to read the Word of God that most precious Book in the world and we will grow strong.

Then we heard much we ought not to have listened to. What a wonderful gift the ear is! What delightful music we can listen to! How important it is to hear the Gospel! What privileges we have in the use of our ears! But have we used them properly? We have shunned good advice. We have not listened to mother or father, but we have listened to gossip and slander and then repeated it. We certainly should turn from the old here and put on the new. We must eschew evil and do good.

Then we have not made our home life happy. We may think that our part does not matter much. Have you hurt mother or father by bad conduct? Have you wasted your time in school, when your parents are sacrificing much to send you? Are you ungrateful and stubborn? Have you done much to hinder your parents? Have you neglected the Sunday school and Church when you know your parents want you to go and send you there? If some of this fits you discard the old and put on the new.

Then have we been weak and lacking in moral backbone and failed to stand up for the right when we were out with the boys? Did we not feel ashamed of Jesus and then and there fail to let out light shine? Yes, let us not be afraid to suffer for righteousness' sake, even now; for we must learn to take our stand for truth now if we would stand firm when we grow older.

Now the new year is about to come. It is like the unwritten book with blank leaves, 365 pages in all. Upon each page we must write our defeats and our victories each day. God is gracious to give us another yearbook. Now is the time to make resolutions, but only to keep them.

Resolution, says John Foster, is omnipotent. He that resolves upon any great and good end has, by that very resolution, scaled the chief barrier to it. He will find such resolution removing difficulties, searching out or making means, giving courage for despondency and strength for weakness and like the star to the wise men of old, ever guiding him nearer and nearer to perfection.

Suggested topics for papers of twenty-five words each or to be spoken upon in the meeting:

How can we be of service to God in (a) Church, (b) Luther League, (c) home, (d) neighbor.

How can we be of service to our fellow-man (a) poor, (b) orphan and widow, (c) sick, (d) distressed.

How can we be of service to our country (a) in peace, (b) in war, (c) in calamity, (d) in prosperity.

DECEMBER 2.

Missionary—"On Wings of Angels."

By Mrs. Margaret R. Seebach.

Scripture Lesson—Luke 2:8-20.

Point of Contact—The Christmas message, and our message to the world. "Wings for the angels, but feet for the men."

Leader—We have been thinking about the Book that has carried God's message swiftly and surely. The message is that Christ came from heaven to save us. Once upon a time that message really came to earth on wings—on wings of angels, that first Christmas night. The angels must have been very glad to be chosen to carry that message. But they had no greater joy than we may have; for the message we carry to the world is just the same as theirs, though we carry it on human feet, not on angels' wings. If the angels look down from heaven this Christmas, what will they see the Winged Book doing all over the world?

For Use in the Meeting—People of about 500 different languages are reading the Bible today. This has been made possible by the labors of missionaries in learning the languages and translating the Bible; and also by the work of the Bible societies, whose agents distribute the books. Because the Bible tells us that Christ healed the sick, His people are sending out doctors and nurses, and building hospitals, to do the work of their Master. Many heathen are brought to Christ by the kindness they receive in mission hospitals, and by having the Bible read to them there. Because the Book tells us that Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me," the missionaries have opened schools all over the world, to teach children about Him. Because the Bible says, "Thou shalt not steal," whole tribes who lived by robbery are being taught the blessings of honest work, and are giving up their wicked lives. Because God's Word says, "Thou shalt not kill," the lives of many girl babies, who used to be thrown away by heathen parents, are being saved, to become Christian women and lead others to Christ. Because the Book says, "Thou shalt have no other gods," thousands of ugly stone and wooden idols have been thrown down and destroyed; and the people who worshipped them are learning that "God is a spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." Because the Bible tells us to "Remember the Sabbath day," business men in many lands, who never heard of Sabbath rest, are closing their stores on the Lord's day. Because the Winged Book has taught us that "death is swallowed up in victory," many thousands who were all their life in fear of death are looking forward to a happy home with their Saviour at the end of life. Because God's Book says, "Love one another," people away across the sea, who have learned the love of Christ,

are praying for us as brothers and sisters. Because the Bible tells us that war and tumult shall cease, God's people in all the world have dared to hope, even in the midst of strife, for the day of universal peace.

Usual Missionary Prayer.

DECEMBER 9.

"*What Is the Church Year and Why Do We Use It?*"

By Jane M. Truxal.

Scripture Lesson—I Cor. 14:40.

General Truth—God works through His servants, and gives us ways to express ourselves in our religious life, and one of the best of these is our Church year.

Point of Contact—How much better to be studying about Christ's birth at the Christmas season than to have it appointed for the midsummer season. How much more beautiful is the story of the Resurrection on Easter Day than it would be at any other time of the year.

The Story—The Church has its own particular year, which is different from our secular year. It is of very early origin and was arranged according to the facts and doctrines of religion. It is made up of festivals and Sundays. The Church fathers who lived long ago tried to obey Paul's words, when he said, "Let everything be done decently and in order," and that the Scripture lessons should be selected to fit the season and not just picked out at any place in the Bible and read at any time. And so the Church year was arranged with all its festivals and Sundays. The Scripture lessons, read by our pastors, were selected to suit the day on which they were read, and the prayers and collects and responsive readings, which we use in our services each Lord's day and each festival day, together with hymns, were selected to suit the time.

Our Church year begins with Advent, about the last of November, when for four weeks our lessons all refer to the coming of Christ; then we have Christmas when we celebrate His birth. After Christmas we have New Year's Day, when we commemorate His presentation in the temple; then comes Epiphany, when the wise men visited Him, and he was thus manifested to the Gentiles. Then comes the Lenten season, beginning with Ash Wednesday, when we are taught about His sufferings for us. After that comes Palm Sunday, the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem, and then Passion Week in which comes Holy Thursday, when he instituted the Lord's Supper, and Good Friday, the day He died for us. Then we come to Easter, when we celebrate His glorious Resurrection. Forty days after Easter comes Ascension, when our Lord ascended into heaven. Ten days later comes Pentecost, or Whit Sunday, which celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Ghost at Jerusalem, and a week later we have Trinity Sunday, in commemoration of the Three Persons, God, the Father, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Ghost, and then we have the Sundays after Trinity to the close of our Church year. There is also near the close of the year Reformation Day, on which we celebrate the founding of our own Lutheran Church.

We should be so glad that the Church fathers gave us this plan, for by it we can keep the whole life of Christ and His great work of salvation before us, as well as the practical lessons of our Christian faith.

Practical Hints—The leader should show the children the arrangement of the services in our Church Book. Give a brief drill of the festival days and the seasons, with the meanings.

DECEMBER 16.

"*What the Church Is and Our Ideas About It.*"

By Jane M. Truxal.

Scripture Lesson—Matt. 16:13-20.

General Truth—The Church, first of all, is God's House, where He meets His people who assemble there to worship Him. It is the place also, whether in a building or in the open air, where the Word and the Sacraments are and the people are gathered with believing hearts, and God is there, too.

Point of Contact—When the Church was started God's people met wherever they could. They did not have fine buildings but, for fear of their enemies, they worshipped in caves and in the woods and in other secret places. How we should thank God today that we can go openly and boldly to our churches, and that we have such beautiful and comfortable ones in which to worship.

The Story—Jesus was journeying through Palestine with his disciples. He asked them whom men said He was. They answered that some said Elias, some John the Baptist, and others said He was Jeremiah. Jesus then asked the disciples whom they thought He was. Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus told Peter that God had blessed him by revealing this unto him, and said that on the kind of faith Peter had He was going to build His Church. Some people think that Jesus meant that Peter himself was the rock on which Jesus was going to build His Church, that Peter was to be the head of the Church, and that since Peter is not living any more they think they still must have a man for the head, and so they have what they call a Pope, who is the head of the Roman Catholic Church. Jesus never meant anything of the kind. If his Church were built on a man like Peter it would be a human church; but it is not a human church; it is a divine church, built upon Christ and upon faith in Christ—the kind of faith that Peter had.

Jesus told His disciples that they should go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. So to have the Church we must have preaching and teaching, the sacraments, namely, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and *Faith*. Nothing more is needed to make a church, but just the Word, the sacraments and the people with faith in God.

Some of us, however, have hazy ideas about the church. We think it is not necessary *for us*, but only for older people. As long as we go to Sunday school, we think we have done our duty. This is not true. The Sunday school is the church at school. The church service is for every family. There they worship God and receive spiritual food. Every boy and girl needs this as much as older people. The church service is *necessary* for us, if we are to grow up in the love and service of God. We should attend both Sunday school and church service *every Sunday*, if we would be true to God.

In the church we receive the sacraments; for we are first baptized into Christ and then we receive the sacrament of the Altar, the Body and Blood of Christ. In the church we hear His gospel preached, we sing songs of praise and thanksgiving to Him; we bring our pray-

ers and petitions for forgiveness of our sins; and we bring our gifts and lay them upon the altar. Let us as Juniors come much to the Lord's House and learn to say as David did: "I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the House of the Lord.' "

Practical Hints—Tell the Juniors about the church as it was organized by the apostles at Jerusalem. Compare the church of the Israelites with the Temple at Jerusalem and with the church of today. Tell how corrupt it had become in the sixteenth century and of Luther's efforts to cleanse it.

DECEMBER 23.

"What Christ's Coming Has Given Us."

By Jane M. Truxal.

Scripture Lesson—St. John 1:29-34.

General Truth—Wherever we find Christ's Gospel taught we find churches, schools, charitable institutions, happy homes and joyous glad-hearted people.

Point of Contact—How much better it is to live in a Christian land where we have the Bible and all our other good books, Sunday school, church and Luther League, loving parents and friends all about us, than it is to live in the dark heathen lands, where they kill little girl babies or marry them in their cradles, and make little children worship horrible idols, and live in filth and misery.

The Story—John the Baptist was preaching to the people, urging them to repent of their sins and be baptized, because, he said, the Messiah was even then among them. One day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and he cried out, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Then he told the people that this was He of whom he had spoken.

The Christ, the Messiah, had indeed come down and dwelt among the people there in Judea, as the prophets had said he would, and he went about doing good.

And now, what has His coming done for us? It has given us the church. He had told His disciples to go out and preach the Gospel to all the world after He should leave them, and they established what we call the church, and so we have had the Gospel ever since. It has taught people how to care for and love little children. It has given us our institutions of charity and mercy. Without our Christian religion we would have no hospitals, no old people's homes, no orphans' homes. It has given us our schools. It has given us civilization and civil liberty. This great America of ours would not be a free country today if it were not for the Christian religion. Everything that is good in this world we owe to the coming of Christ, but best of all is that it has given us heaven. It gives us comfort when our loved ones die for we know we shall see them in heaven, and it gives us peace when we die for we know that Jesus is waiting for us.

At this blessed Christmas season, when we are talking and thinking about the Babe of Bethlehem, we should think of those who do not know Jesus and pray God to raise up many who will go out to heathen lands to tell about Jesus. Here at home we can do much, too, for there are many right in our midst who do not love Jesus, whom we might help to bring to Him.

Hints to Leader—Who was John the Baptist; where did he live? Have some Junior tell the story of the baptism of Jesus. Give instances of the "good things" Jesus did while here on earth. Compare these with the works of mercy God's children are doing today.

DECEMBER 30.

"Our Going to Church and New Year's Resolutions."

By Jane M. Truxal.

Scripture Lesson—Deut. 6:7; Prov. 22:6; Phil. 3:14-15.

General Truth—Children can understand what it means to resolve to do better and to try harder to live as Christ wants them to live. They can ask God to help to keep them, and make them stronger and better.

Point of Contact—We love to read stories of great characters such as Moses, David, Peter, Martin Luther, Washington and Lincoln. All of these men at times made resolutions to try to serve God better, and frequently went to the House of God to learn more about Him.

The Story—Long ago, while the children of Israel were wandering in the wilderness, God told them they should be careful to teach their children His law.

God still wants us to read, think and talk about His Word; He wants family worship in our homes, so that children will hear His Word read. He wants the children to be trained and taught to become good men and women; He wants them to be regular in attendance at the services in His House to hear the Word preached. We should be there just as regularly every time there is service as we are regular in arising in the morning from our sleep and retiring at night. He tells us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves in His House. He also says that where two or three are gathered together in His name He will be there to bless them.

It is good sometimes to stop and look back over our lives and see if we have been living the way Christ wants us to, and this is the very best time, when the old year is drawing to a close and we are looking forward to a new year. Surely we all want to make the new year the very best year we ever had, and so we should talk our mistakes over with our Heavenly Father, ask Him to forgive us, and resolve to do better with His help. We should not make New Year's resolutions merely for the sake of making them, or because other people are making them, but because we really want to live more like God wants us to and expects us to as His children.

Practical Hints—Have Juniors tell of Jesus' presentation in the temple; of His visit to Jerusalem at the age of twelve. Give instances showing that Jesus regularly attended services at the synagogue.

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in the form of questions and answers comprehensively and clearly given

With Appendices on Christian Hymnody and Liturgical Colors and a Glossary of Liturgical Terms

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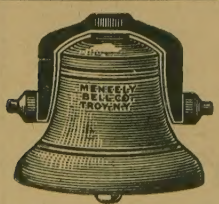

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